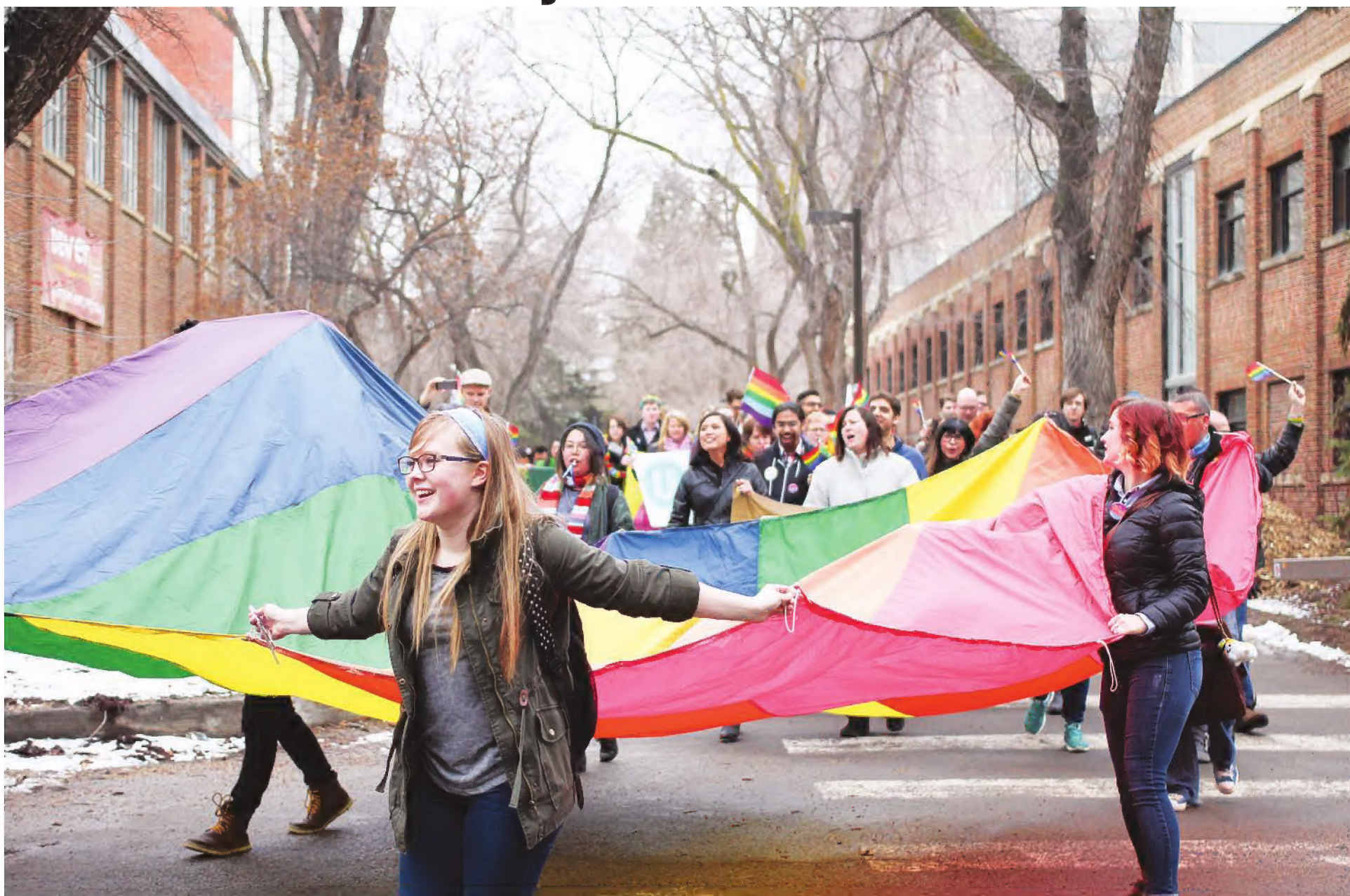


Pride — Not Prejudice



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EDMONTON'S
FORGOTTEN
EPIDEMIC





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THE

gateway

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GTWY.CA

Meeting UAlberta

Alison Brooks-Starks

COMPLIED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERYN PINKSEN & RICHARD CATANGAY-LIEW



Gateway: What does Pride Week mean to you?

Brooks-Starks: To me it means making the invisible visible and to disrupt the status quo of silence and to make sure that there is a safe space for everyone on campus.

Gateway: What do you think this does for the rest of the U of A and people seeing all this?

Brooks-Starks: I think it shows that the difference no matter what is accepted and that there is a space for minorities of all kinds. Its okay to be figuring yourself because there's people here to catch you whenever.

Like journalism? Volunteer with us.



SECTION	MEETING TIMES	ROOM 3-04 SUB
NEWS	Mondays at 3 p.m.	
SPORTS	Wednesdays at 3 p.m.	
OPINION	Wednesdays at 2 p.m.	
ARTS & CULTURE	Wednesdays at 4 p.m.	
PHOTOGRAPHY	Mondays at 2 p.m.	
MULTIMEDIA	Mondays at 4 p.m.	
COMICS & ILLUSTRATIONS	Fridays at 2 p.m.	





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Super fundraiser celebrates Jarrett's Tournament IV

Mitchell Sorensen

STAFF REPORTER • @SONOFAMITCH77

Jarrett Bortscher was never one for outward celebration, no matter how excited the people around him were.

Bortscher's friend and fellow Super Smash Bros. expert Victor Ly recalled a tight match from years ago, when Bortscher strung together three single-frame glitch moves to defeat his opponent. With Bortscher's character, Samus standing on the screen in victory, everyone in the room went wild, Ly recalled.

"All of us exploded and were like 'oh my god, he's so technical, he's so fast, I can't believe he just did that,'" Ly said. "But because it's Jarrett, he was still pretty stiff, but he was starting to blush."

Though his reaction may not have been orthodox, there was good reason for it. Bortscher was on the autism spectrum. Though he was high-functioning, Bortscher was quiet and reserved, and suffered from catatonia that left his entire body stiff. Ly said that after performing a high-level move, Bortscher often remained upright and rigid, but those who knew him could detect the hint of a smile and blush in his face.

To relax after a big match, Ly said Bortscher would often find a secluded corner and do headstands to get his blood flowing. Though he was an engaged and talented member of the tight-knit Smash Bros. community, he struggled with depression and anxiety in his time away from the game.

On September 23, 2012, Bortscher

disappeared. His body was discovered days later in the North Saskatchewan River, near the Walterdale Bridge. Just 18 years old when he passed, Bortscher's suicide sent ripples through the Smash Bros.

community.

Weeks later, the inaugural "Jarrett's Tournament" took place, organized by a group of Bortscher's close friends. With a small donation to the Edmonton Area Autism

Society required from each player as an entrance fee, the tournament has raised thousands for the cause in its three years of existence.

At its inception in 2012, only a handful of Bortscher's friends

gathered for the event. This year, the tournament has been delayed since fall while the Smash Bros. club found a venue. Now housed in a warehouse attached to a church on 99th Street, event organizer Simon Fessehay said he expects anywhere from 100 to 200 people to show up on Saturday, March 12.

The tournament will be contested mainly in the *Super Smash Bros. Melee* format — Jarrett's favourite — and, for the first time, it will serve as a qualifier for another competitive tournament later in the year. Fessehay said that eliminating traditional cash prizes for the tournament keeps the spirit of the contest.

Fessehay recalled finding the Smash Bros. club because of the tournament, as he happened to meet Ly on the bus after the inaugural event. For Ly, the tournament is a great ice-breaker for players new to Smash.

"It's a step back from competition, people get into the game just to get good, they let the game kind of get ahead of themselves," Ly said. "The message behind Jarrett's tournament is that we're getting together to remember someone who was important in our community and a friend of ours."

Bringing people together to "put their troubles on pause" is a big part of what the game is about for Ly, and he said Jarrett's Tournament and the Smash Bros. community serve as a place to find lifelong friends.

"You meet friends and have fun," Ly said, "(those people) will provide support for you with your real problems when they come around."



FALCO PUNCH FUNDRAISER Local smashers will be raising money for autism research at Jarrett's Tournament on Mar. 12. SUPPLIED — SEKIYA

Students host BA renewal town hall

Jamie Sarkonak

STAFF REPORTER • @SWAGONAK

Students brought their concerns about flexibility to the Faculty of Arts' proposed degree changes in a town hall on Tuesday.

Proposed changes to the BA include cutting its 36 credits of core requirements and replacing them with five thematic pathways, as well as removing the requirement of a minor and six language other than English credits. The changes would allow students more flexibility in their Arts degrees, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) Ball said.

"These town halls can be better if they provide a firmer timeline."

MARINA BANISTER
STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)-ELECT

"I see (the BA renewal) as a way for us as a faculty to describe these different pathways to students," Ball said during the town hall. "What I want to do is improve that model of things that we can point to and suggest that this is what you can do, and actually have a consistent answer to those questions."

One student in the audience argued that the removal of the BA core requirements would add confusion to the degree's structure, as students would have more freedom to take many more different

courses. Ball replied that pathway style learning at the University of Calgary showed students could connect what they learned in first year to what they learned in fourth year. Students could build their degrees around what courses they were interested in as a result, Ball added.

Another town hall attendee asked why the new BA couldn't be modelled more after McGill University's or the University of Toronto's BAs, which have scrapped their language requirements, yet retained their core requirements. Ball responded that the proposed BA model is what works "best for the University of Alberta."

Ball brought up that the new BA would increase students' ability to earn degrees with double majors, in which students are only enrolled in six per cent. He argued that parents will pressure their children into degrees they may not want.

"Say you fall in love with Philosophy, but your parents are like, 'Well you need the proper degree, Psychology,'" Ball said. "The pressure is for you to do that as your major currently ... In the new model you could also do the thing that you love doing, which is the Philosophy."

A student in a double major honours program replied that he had no problems with his degree in the current BA framework. He said scrapping the requirements won't make a double major easier for anyone.

Former Students' Union VP (Student Life) Nicolas Diaz said the core

frustration with the BA is that it's large and obtuse, and that it needs to be "cleaned up a bit." In terms of consultation, a process of expectations should be outlined when it comes to feedback collection, he said.

"I think folks need to hear that there are working groups that involve all the different stakeholders: students, academia," Diaz said, following the town hall. "Making sure we're building that consensus in conjunction with the town halls."

"In the new model you could also do the thing that you love doing."

ALLEN BALL
U OF A ASSOCIATE DEAN (TEACHING AND LEARNING)

SU VP (Academic)-elect Marina Banister also said she was concerned with the consultation framework. Banister has watched the BA review through various failures to pass in General Faculties Council, and said that without a literal action plan and timeline, the plans will never come to fruition.

"These town halls can be better if they provide a firmer timeline," Banister said, "Right now they're very based in what should this look like and what could this do, but not actually how it will happen. Without the how, these could come off as somewhat of a waste of people's time."



TOWNHALL TENSION The Gateway and OASIS hosted a BA renewal town hall. CHRISTINA VARVIS

PRIDE

Through the years

1942 - At least six men imprisoned due to same-sex activities in Edmonton. The trials were well-publicized.

1969 - Bill C-150, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, is introduced. Sexual acts between men over the age of 21 are decriminalized.

1970 - Club 70, Edmonton's first gay bar, opens and is quickly closed down. The club sues, relocates and reopens.

1972 - The Individual's Rights Protection Act is enacted, but does not include sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination. Lobbying to include it starts.

1975 - The Gay Alliance Towards Equality is founded. This will later become the Pride Centre of Edmonton.

1980 - Edmonton's first Pride celebration takes place, where 75 people attended. Some participants wore paper bags over their heads in fear of losing their jobs.

1981 - Edmonton police's Morality Control Unit raid the Pisces Health Spa and arrest 56 men. This became known as Edmonton's Stonewall.

1991 - King's College lab instructor Delwin Vriend is fired because he is gay. He is not protected under the Individual's Rights Protection Act, so the Alberta Human Rights Commission refuses to investigate.

1998 - Vriend's case goes to the Supreme Court of Canada, which rules in his favour.

1999 - Same-sex couples can now privately adopt children in Alberta.

2005 - Canada passes Bill C-38, which defines marriage as a "union between two persons." Alberta premier Ralph Klein was advised to not challenge the bill, as it would be a waste of money for all parties.

2008 - The Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta opens.

2007 - Same-sex couples can now publicly adopt children in Alberta.

2013 - University of Alberta holds first Pride Parade on campus.

2014 — The Landing, the U of A's student-run centre that supports gender and sexual diversity is founded.

Keynote sheds light on LGBT hate in Jamaica

Jamie Sarkonak
STAFF REPORTER • @SWAGONAK

It took death threats to "kick" Maurice Tomlinson out of the closet. But once he was out, the human rights lawyer became a public challenger of anti-gay law.

Tomlinson didn't start out in LGBT activism. He was a lawyer for organizations involved in LGBT and HIV-AIDS activism, where he received human rights training for victimized LGBT individuals.

"That really opened my eyes to the real suffering," Tomlinson said. "Because after I took those courses, I started hearing from people what attacks they're had."

Tomlinson began writing about cases of LGBT attacks in newspapers, which he said was all-consuming. He received death threats when his work was published, but Tomlinson knew he found his passion. He left corporate law and delved into human rights, and went on to organize Montego Bay's first Pride celebration in 2009.

"People presume that when you say 'Pride,' you mean a march," Tomlinson said. "We don't do that."

Safety cannot be guaranteed in a Pride march at Montego Bay — the local police force would only send one cyclist officer when Tomlinson tried to organize the inaugural march in 2009. Pride in Montego Bay is instead celebrated in a secure location behind multiple layers of security officers and precautions. Outside of the secure location are "flash stands," where celebrators gather in high-traffic areas with few pedestrians and display placards and rainbow flags in-hand.



CORPORATE TO QUEER ADVOCATE Maurice Tomlinson will be speaking at Law Centre 197 on Thursday, March 10.

SUPPLIED

Participants in Montego Bay's flash stands are bussed around the city to around five different locations. For one day — any more, and Tomlinson said Pride participants wouldn't be promised safety and security.

One of the problems with LGBT activism in the Caribbean is the disunity that can happen between interest groups. During Pride, everybody comes together in unity, which is great, Tomlinson said. There was the fear that the class divide would segregate the LGBT community.

"The 'rich queens,' privileged gays, do not associate with the 'scary queens,' the poor gays," Tomlinson said. "They are fearful they will try to exploit them."

On every other day that's not Pride, Tomlinson works in a few different areas of LGBT activism. Activism is needed in

the Caribbean countries such as Guyana and Jamaica, where same-sex relationships are illegal and highly stigmatized. The prohibition is associated with a high rate of HIV in the region — in Jamaica, for example, one-third of men having sex with men test HIV-positive. Tomlinson works to challenge anti-gay laws and increase LGBT visibility, which is "much needed," as he had experienced the need for change first-hand.

"When I had reported the death threats that I received because of my LGBT activism, the police chased me out of the police station saying that they hate gays and they make them sick," Tomlinson said. "When I reported him to his boss, the officer said, 'Those attitudes are unfortunate but they won't change until the law changes.'"

Tomlinson is currently challenging Jamaica's anti-sodomy law in

court, but he has received little support from groups in the Jamaican community. For now, he's backed by the public defender, a small lesbian group, and the media — newspapers are writing editorials in Tomlinson's support. The major LGBT groups need to support each other more in asking for change, Tomlinson said.

"The biggest challenge to success in the Caribbean will be visibility," Tomlinson said. "Unless people know who we are, they will always default to the stereotypes they hear."

Tomlinson will be speaking about his work from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 in Room 197 of the Law Centre. Food will be provided, as well as a screening of *The Abominable Crime*, a documentary film on homophobia and anti-gay violence in Jamaica.

U of A gender equity advisor is one-of-a-kind in Alberta

Jamie Sarkonak
STAFF REPORTER • @SWAGONAK

Pride has "thrown up" all over the office that seats Chris Daberer, the University of Alberta's gender equity advisor. Stored throughout the room are flags, boxes of memorabilia and even a large, plush rainbow firefly. Daberer's job is campus-wide, but his past couple weeks have been busy with coordinating Pride Week.

That means he's been reading a lot of emails.

"Basically, I'm getting about 100 a day lately," Daberer said. "It's all really cool stuff though."

The gender equity advisor, which is the only such position in the province, is a network builder — the role focuses on the student experience at the U of A. From his position in Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS), Daberer reaches out to gender and sexual minority students to increase their feelings of comfort and inclusivity.

Around 2008, Daberer began identifying as a gay man during his time at the U of A, feeling that the university was an inclusive enough environment to do so. For Daberer, it felt great — and it also gave him a new opportunity to share more of his experience as a leader in the community.

He works with the Safe Spaces pro-

gram, to train allies in how to be inclusive and supportive to sexual and gender minorities. Daberer is also one in a working group currently drafting a U of A human resources statement regarding employment and gender equity. Daberer has been involved in a number of gender-inclusive initiatives such as the inclusion of a third gender option for university applications and the ability for students to change their preferred name on BearTracks.

"I have much to learn," Daberer said. "And I don't profess to be the person who knows everything, so I gathered together a group on campus to say, 'Hey, we have a third option (for gender.) What do you think?'"

A lot of Daberer's job is to spark conversation. Figuring out the right wording for an application's third gender option, or the right signage for gender-neutral washrooms brings the campus community into a discussion about what attributes are important to know, and what the correct way of addressing gender should be. Working with university staff on these topics is easy, he said.

"So far I've not come across anyone being like, 'No we can't do that,' (when it comes to making change)" Daberer said. "It's usually met with people being at least excited about it."

Daberer has never left university

life. In a way, he has been working at the U of A since 2005 as a residence coordinator. In his 10 years of supporting students in residence, he became sort of a mentor figure, where he carried on his ability to guide students financially and emotionally. As someone with a wide understanding of the network of support services on campus, he can point students to services that may help them through coming-out crises. Students may be directed to a number of resources through Daberer, such as being pointed towards the university pharmacy for hormone medication.

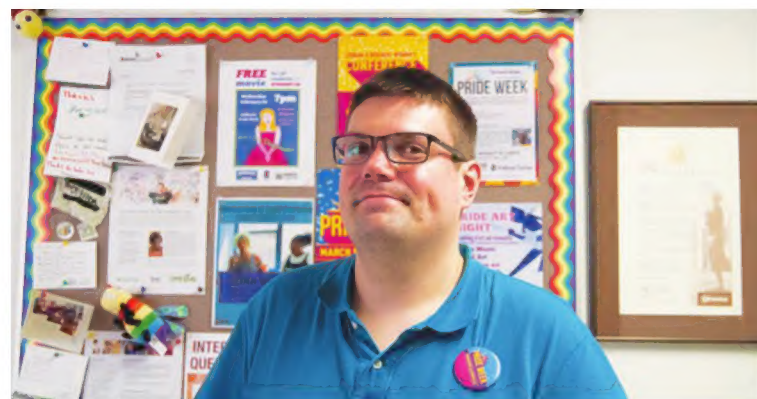
Facilitating students' movement into a positive life is one of the best parts of the job, Daberer said.

"I get to see a really cool progres-

sion," Daberer said. "Really shy to really involved, out there in public and stuff. It can take months."

Daberer is always working on understanding privilege — his understanding of campus life would be "deficient" if he didn't think about diversity: people of colour, trans people, people in different programs. He's found that it's very important for a diversity of students to share their stories — and it's his job to facilitate that dialogue.

"(Oppressed people) shouldn't be the teachers, because that's sort of perpetuating oppression," Daberer said. "But when people speak up and when they say oppose things or when they choose to help, that can be a really powerful thing."



EQUITY ENTHUSIAST Chris Daberer is the only gender equity advisor in AB.

JAMIE SARKONAK



PUMPED FOR PRIDE The University of Alberta celebrated its fourth annual Pride Parade on Tuesday afternoon.

Pride Parade celebrates diversity and inclusivity

Eryn Pinksen

NEWS WRITER • @ERYNPINKSEN

From screaming in the library to marching through the campus with the support of passers by, inclusivity was continuously talked about by attendees of the Pride Parade on Tuesday.

The University of Alberta hosted the fourth annual Pride Parade with a turnout hundreds of people shouting and marching. Starting in CCIS and weaving its way from SUB to Rutherford and ending with a carnival in the PAW Centre, the Pride Parade involved people from numerous campus groups, such as Drew Delbaere from Student Connect.

President (External)-elect, spoke of the intersectionality of Pride.

"It's good to have the entire student body coming out and supporting something like this because we need it as a campus," Sandare said. "We need to be more inclusive and we need to support everyone. It doesn't matter who you are or what you're about, everyone should be able to come together."

Michael Phair, newly appointed Chair of the Board of Governors, was also in attendance and says that Pride Week means a great deal to him, as he has been involved with Edmonton Pride Week for 30 years. Previously, Phair was the first openly gay elected official in Alberta and worked as a city councillor for 15 years.

"On the campus at the university, what it says is that we're very inclusive and we recognize that there are differences among different groups of people." — Michael Phair, University of Alberta Board Chair

"(Pride Week) makes everyone feel supported and feel like they are a part of this community and that they are included in it," Delbaere said. "Walking around today, seeing everyone's face and seeing all the cheers, it's really what I can feel."

Other members of organizations in attendance included the Office of the Registrar, the UAlberta Ambassador Program Counseling and Clinical Services, St. Stephens College, and The Landing, among others. OUTreach and the Institute of Sexual Minority Studies of Services, Pride Week's organizers, handed out candy, noisemakers, colorful beads and, including everyone in the campus-wide event. Incoming Students' Union executives also marched in the parade. Mike Sandare, Vice-

Phair said he's glad that students are excited about the events and that the U of A is showing that inclusivity is important to the school and its students.

"On the campus at the university, what it says is that we're very inclusive and we recognize that there are differences among different groups of people," Phair said.

"We want to make sure that they feel welcome, that they are contributing, and that they are respected like every other citizen. That's what's going on today, it's a chance to say yeah we're here and we make a difference."

View full coverage of the Pride Parade and photo gallery at gtwy.ca.



CHRISTINA VARVIS

LGBTQ Statistics

64,575

Number of same sex couples in 2011, up 42.4 per cent from 2006.

33 per cent

Of those same-sex couples were married.

2 per cent

Of Canadians identify as homosexual or bisexual.

21,015

Number of same-sex married couples in Canada.

43,560

Number of same-sex common-law couples.

0.8 per cent

Proportion of all couples who were same-sex couples.

54.5 per cent

Proportion of same-sex couples who were male.

45.5 per cent

Proportion of same-sex couples who were female.

All numbers derived from Statistics Canada's 2011 Census

Queer community embraces The Landing's services

Richard Catangay-Liew
NEWS EDITOR • @RICHARDCLIEW

Amanda Hunter first started wearing a beard through cosplay.

He had experience dressing up at comic book conventions as Will Graham from TV's Hannibal, Greg Lestrade from Sherlock, and even a self-admitted "odd mix" of Sailor Moon's Tuxedo Mask and Captain America's sidekick, Bucky Barnes.

It started out as a way to dress up and be exactly whom he wanted to be. It was his excuse to try really hard to look male. Over time, wearing the beard became more gender fluid. Hunter found it was the only time where people would look at him and say, "that's a guy."

"When people see you in costume, they're like, 'oh wow, I didn't even realize you were a girl,' or, 'you could pass as a guy,'" Hunter said. "It was really fulfilling to be able to do that."

But what started as a "theatrical basis," and a costume to hide behind where people didn't question him, became another way to express his masculinity and enforce his preferred pronouns.

Hunter took his short, scruffy beard to the podium at The Landing's Ambassador's Breakfast, a gathering of politicians, U of A students, staff and volunteers to learn more about The Landing and its services during the annual Pride Week festivities. He usually doesn't take his beard out in public unless it's an Animethon or convention, but during his speaking turn, the room's audience offered Hunter, beard and all, something he always wanted — unconditional acceptance.

The Landing, a non-profit service



LOVIN' THE LANDING Amanda Hunter is one of the many beneficiaries of The Landing's services.

RICHARD CATANGAY-LIEW

in the basement of SUB, offers support for gender and sexual diversity where Hunter, who said he's been "shunned" by others who believe he's contradicting his catholic background, can go in peace and openly discuss his transmasculinity and romantic relationship with a woman.

"I like her a lot more than I like their opinions," he said.

Also joining Hunter on the breakfast's speakers list were recently appointed Board of Governors Chair Michael Phair, Students' Union Vice-President (Operations

and Finance) Cody Bondarchuk, MLA's David Shepherd (Edmonton-Centre) and Estefania Cortes-Varga (Strathcona-Sherwood Park) and several of The Landing's volunteers and users.

For many, The Landing is a refuge for others to express their gender without fear of backlash or discrimination. It's a "sanctuary away from society" where people can "feel proud and accepted," Hunter said. But for him, most importantly, it's the people more than anything.

"Who a safe space is, matters a lot more than what a safe space is,"

Hunter said. "It's full of like-minded people, a genuine family."

Also important is The Landing's potential to allow others to meet other people. "Real people," not the stereotypical mainstream's vision of what a trans person is, Hunter said. Being able to reach out and hear someone's voice, whether it's at The Landing or not, and learn someone's story and experiences in the queer community, is an inspiring way for others to feel comfortable with who they are, he added.

"It's not just an identity," Hunter said. "These are real human beings."



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March 8 - Suffragette

March 15 - Unnatural & Accidental

March 22 - She's Beautiful When She's Angry

Films at 7:00. Preshow at 5:30.



Todd Babiak presents... Eastern Promises

A Russian teenager living in London who dies during childbirth leaves clues to a midwife in her journal that could tie the child to a rape involving a violent Russian mob family.

Todd Babiak is an Edmonton writer who is launching his newest book at Metro Cinema.

March 16: Film at 7PM. Book launch and reading at 6:30PM.



Staff Pics: A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence

Sam and Jonathan, a pair of hapless novelty salesmen, embark on a tour of the human condition in reality and fantasy that unfold in a series of absurdist episodes.

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— ILIANA PAPPAS, STUDENT

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Class talks by SU candidates should be prohibited

UNQUESTIONABLY THE WORST PART OF THE STUDENTS' UNION election season is the class talk.

As a third-year student, most of my classes have around 20 to 30 students, making it simply not worth the candidates' time. My psychology class is different. With 171 students in the basement of Tory Lecture Theatres, it is an ideal target for candidates.

Last Thursday, one of the VP (Ops-Fi) candidates entered my class and (presumably) asked my professor whether he could make his pitch. I watched my prof say no, and the candidate left the room. After silently thanking the prof, I began to wonder why we allow class talks in the first place.

I'm not sure why anybody whose message is not directly relevant to the course (i.e. not a lecturer) would be allowed to speak in a class. Often, these speakers are cutting into lecture time, with pitches lasting up to a full five minutes into class. This is an unacceptable waste of student time, or, if you want to be more pragmatic, tuition.

That five wasted minutes represents a significant number of student dollars. If average tuition is \$500 per class, and you spend 150 minutes per week in a 15-week semester, lectures will take around 2,250 minutes per semester. That means you spend around \$0.22 per minute in lectures.

Though the \$1.10 a five-minute intrusion costs you might not seem like much, if this is scaled up to the size of a 450-person intro level, that candidate just wasted \$495 in student collective time. Multiply that by however many hundreds of classes are presented to in election season, and the waste increases exponentially.

It's mind-boggling that this practice is deemed acceptable by the university. Though the Chief Returning Officer instructs candidates to speak to every prof before they do class talks, many do not follow this rule. This is especially true in the last days of the campaign, and a last push for votes. Compounded with the fact that candidates target entry-levels with (usually) more inexperienced professors, they are more likely to say "yes" to having candidates speak.

Though they can be a distraction, SU candidates represent the best-intentioned of presenters. Undoubtedly bringing more votes to the elections, hearing perspectives on student issues and being told to cast a ballot is much more palatable than other presentations I have heard in class.

We've all heard how we can make oodles of cash painting houses for the summer or ride elephants in Bali in class talks. Companies with essentially no interest in student well-being are allowed to market directly to a captive audience of hundreds of students, mostly first years who don't know the difference between a summer job and a pyramid scheme.

For the life of me, I can't figure out why the university allows this kind of policy to exist. Time in front of instructors is paid for by student tuition and government subsidy, and students deserve to not be interrupted in this period.

Taking all this into consideration, a blanket ban on pre-class talks is necessary. Though there are conventions in place surrounding them, those rules are broken so often the university cannot stand for the continuation of this practice. If the candidates who included "maximizing student value" in the platforms really believe in that, prohibiting class talks is a great place to start.

Mitch Sorensen
STAFF REPORTER

MICROTORIAL COMMENT

Students these days...

I'm increasingly understanding why the proposed BA changes might be a good idea for students. The thematic pathways are merely suggestions for students, and there's little reason to believe that departments, if left to design their own requirements, wouldn't adopt some version of the pre-existing core requirements.

My disagreement must then be with contemporary students, the majority of which want their education to be directly related to a career outside the university. Students want to choose, and granting students the responsibility to choose most of the specifics of a degree rather than making them take certain courses for pedagogical reasons, has a dramatic effect on the funding allocation, on research, on the institutional structure etc. of a public university.

I regret my degree because my program allows students to avoid difficult but necessary lower-level classes, ultimately causing the haphazard understanding of an academic discipline. But majority rules.

Josh Greschner
OPINION EDITOR



THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO VOTED 'YES' HAS BEEN ALTERED FOR ARTISTIC PURPOSES.

ADAIRE BEATTY

letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

Stop whining about Mike
(Re: *Searing Hot Takes: SU Elections*, by Josh Greschner, March 5)

Lol you need to realize that there was more to Mike than your shallow considerations of his theme and his being green. You should probably ask how he got prepared to take the office rather than touting around whiny comments like should win or would win bull.

Fckgateway
VIA WEB

Hold up Sarah
(Re: *Perpetuating stereotypes about the Faculty of Engineering is harmful*, by Sarah Elder, March 2)

Engineering isn't a boys club because 20% of the students are women? Hold up, because I didn't realize only 20% of our population are women. You're deeply involved in the faculty, which is great, but that isn't reflective of the majority of students' experience. Maybe the women in engineering are no longer afraid, but those that aren't in it seem to be afraid of engineering. And that's a problem.

If we're using anecdotal experiences like yours to classify the faculty as a whole, I'll use mine: every person I knew who went into engineering from school was a man. All of them are misogynistic, egotistical, sometimes-racist man-children

that I ended contact with after I grew up while they didn't. Sounds awful, right? But I've also met a ton of great engineers in University, so I know there are good ones out there, too. Stereotyping the entire faculty based purely on your own experiences harms the rest of it, whether the stereotypes are good or bad.

Getting women into STEM fields is an ongoing issue that's being addressed by virtually every organization invested in engineering. Just Google "Women in STEM" or "Women in Engineering" to see countless stories. It's definitely getting better, but saying the issue no longer exists to prove a point grossly understates the issue and does a disservice to those still struggling to get into the field.

And what's with this line? "This type of ignorance and judgment are the same types of problems that the LGBTQ+ have combated during their movement..."

Get back to me when you're getting killed, imprisoned, beaten, and go through years of self-loathing and suicidal thoughts because you're an engineer — oh wait, that doesn't happen. I understand you have a problem with another article for making comparisons between LGBTQ+ issues and engineers, but here you're doing the same thing, just to the detriment of the LGBTQ+ side. Considering the shit us LGBT peeps have gone through, I think that's a lot worse.

MJP
VIA WEB

Intersectionality crucial to engineering

Engineering students actually can go through depression, self-loathing and suicidal thoughts — it can be incredibly isolating to know that you're going to be labelled as a campus pariah just because of a degree program stereotype. This can be especially true for students who were ruthlessly bullied throughout their entire childhood for being a geek, a nerd, or a dork. Even if you don't personally understand the pain that some people feel from the scars of bullying, please don't be so dismissive of it.

I'd also like to point out that since there ARE many members of the LGBTQ+ community in engineering school and in the engineering profession, loading more hate onto us because we decided to be engineers really doesn't help us out a hell of a lot.

Discrimination and bigotry are systemic issues that are faced by every faculty and every profession. Why can't people stop bickering over who has it worse and realize that there's a lot of intersectionality at play when we're talking about any large group of people?

And as a final comment: please understand that when you call engineering a boys club, you're implying that engineering is a club for boys. Words matter, and by ignoring the presence of the women who make up 1/5 of the engineering community and focusing only on the 4/5 who are men, you're perpetuating the inequality that you claim to be against.

um...
VIA WEB

TEDx UAlberta talks offer varying perspectives on leadership



**Kate
McInnes**
OPINION WRITER

On this campus, the word “leadership” is so overused that it has become an eye-rolling cliché. Despite this, the TEDx UAlberta conference on March 6 at the Citadel Theatre offered some interesting views on what the term means and why students shouldn’t aspire to be a leader for the title alone.

▪ **While the presenters were hit-or-miss, many stood out as inspirational.**

Universities seem to go through trends, whether it’s trying to become more “interdisciplinary” or create more “safe spaces.” The newest trend, “leadership,” has become a profitable enterprise for the university in the past few years. At the Alberta Student Leadership Summit in January, for example, over 300 people somehow justified shelling out \$40 to have self-proclaimed “student leaders” answer questions the world’s greatest minds have failed to solve, like how to “establish your pathway to success” and “build personal courage.”

Some organizers of the TEDx UAlberta conference seemed poised to carry on this idea that the world is a dichotomy of “leaders” and “followers” in their introductory speeches. By the time the first presenter took the stage, the audience had been told by



SUPPLIED - TEDxUALBERTA REVIEW

three different people they were among “the university’s most brilliant minds” just for purchasing a ticket and showing up. The first speaker, Marvin Washington, an associate professor in the Alberta School of Business, came as a breath of fresh air. Though he has worked extensively with government officials and university deans, his talk focused

on the lessons in leadership he learned from coaching teenage boys’ basketball. Washington’s two sons are 5’6 and 5’8 and, despite their height, dream of becoming basketball players. Instead of giving up because of something they can’t change, both of them practice for hours each day to improve their technical skills. Rather than call-

ing yourself a leader, Washington advocated for “leaning into your own problems” and committing to finding a solution. It doesn’t matter how many people your problem influences — even Mother Teresa was criticized in her lifetime for devoting herself to helping the poor and not other vulnerable groups. Likening the qualities of 13-year-old boys in

the city’s southwest to those of the world’s most admirable people was powerful and moving. Contrary to the title of his talk, “How to Lose 50 Pounds and Keep Them Off,” the next speaker, Dr. Arya Sharma, described how overweight people will never lose significant weight because of the elasticity of body tissue. There was no transition between his session and the next, in which architect Jill Robertson described the need for more culturally-significant urban design in Edmonton. Needless to say, the speaking roster was random and disjointed. While the presenters were hit-or-miss, many stood out as inspirational. They urged a similar message: leadership is more than a label. People like Nelson Mandela and Gandhi never saw themselves as leaders, and it’s wrong for students to strive for that title. In the words of speaker Derek Sivers, “Leadership is over-glorified. If you care about a movement, dare to be a follower.”

For me, ideas like these are far more inspiring than the university’s redundant message that all leaders must have served on the Students’ Union, interned in D.C., volunteered for a couple of hours at a high-profile campus event and written at least one half-assed blog post about mental health by the time they graduate. This kind of dialogue is inclusive and healthy, and I would like to see more of it. TEDx UAlberta’s logistics were shaky and their choice in speakers was odd. But with a clearer vision of their goal and a better idea of which speakers resonate with audiences, the conference has the potential to become an attraction at the U of A in years to come.

Thank you for voting ‘Yes’ on the Gateway plebiscite



**Cam
Lewis**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It’s been a year of highs and lows at The Gateway. That inevitably comes with the territory of this kind of job, though. I mean, first of all, we have a dozen individuals in their 20s working together in an office without and heating/air conditioning and computers that frequently crash, so it’s bound to get loopy at times. But then we also

had the sobering reality check that was print media, well, what was left of print media, collapsing from the inside. As students, we can all relate to the feeling of having a seemingly insurmountable mountain to climb, especially when facing a less-than-ideal job climate. That’s how our office felt the day Postmedia cut 90 jobs across Canada. The goal of working in media that once seemed nearly impossible somehow became even less possible with a swift set of cuts that left us pondering our career choices. That was a huge low. And that’s just on the personal

end of things. To give full disclosure, it’s been tremendously difficult to navigate through the death of print media as a student publication. People already don’t want to buy ads in print because they can get more exposure and primary data when advertising online. But even if somebody did want to buy a newspaper ad, they wouldn’t be targeting students, because none of us have any money. We’re adapting to this by scrapping the weekly newspaper, printing a magazine once a month, and doing everything else online. This was the thing people half-joked about four years ago

when I first showed up at SUB 3-04. It’s an intimidating choice, but it’s the right one. Printing a newspaper every week isn’t responsible financially, and if we’re going to keep accepting money from every student on campus, we had better not be throwing it into the recycle bins behind each building. One of the biggest highs for all of us, though, was finding out that 61 per cent of students voted “Yes” on our referendum last week. 61 per cent may not seem like much, but 3,721 students went out of their way to say “yeah, The Gateway is good.” To those who voted “Yes” for

us, thank you. A big part of what makes this job worthwhile is the self-fulfillment you get from working hard on something and producing a finished product you can be proud of, but there’s another part of it that comes from being validated by your audience. Sure, we’re here to improve our skills and help forward our careers, considering we’re the *Unofficial School of Journalism at the University of Alberta* and all that, but at heart, we also want people to enjoy the stuff we produce. When people go out of their way to support us like that, it means a lot. So again, thank you.

#3LF
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Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Tidy one bedroom condo for sale. Whyte Avenue/University area. Excellent access to UofA. Contact: 780-722-8047

When was the last Gateway hot chocolate bracket? Too long ago? Where can I find the best hot choc on campus???

Fadyco Bohaan for prez!

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Why do the Pro-lifers have to ruin everything

this year they added a “none of the above” option to the SU ballots

Need somewhere to vent my issues because my friends and family sure ain't listening

Adrian von zeigler

Why is the Sexual Assault Centre only posting the aggressive posters in CSC and supportive posters everywhere else?

BURN YOUR THESAURUS

Chitter Devs are hotter than the Gateway staff, just saying.

BLEUGH

like having sex with a safeway bag

the UASU election results live blog was a clusterfuck

WhatthehellDylan? Did you believe in Fahim more than you believed in yourself?

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FidoBeer at RATT? What WILL they think of next? “A playful beer with a barky finish”.

Please tell me the article about the Deweys statue being racist is an early April fools joke. What a complete load of shit.

Chill out man

Glad we have a straight, rich, white woman criticizing the outgoing (and diverse) SU exec...

This e-mail was sent from the Three Lines Free form on The Gateway (<http://thegatewayonline.ca>)

why doesn't the gateway have clasfieds anymore i hate all of you, ALL OF YOU

opinion

what's your guys' favourite podcast?

mine is the podcast

just gonna take a whiz through my \$6200 pants

COME ON

the gateway opinion editor is hot

I WANT TO SEE MORE REPRESENTATION FROM FACULTYY ASSOCIATIONS

g



LARA KMECH

SU and Dewey's need to display history and context of sculpture



Navneet Khinda
SU PRESIDENT

There's a fascinating history behind the gigantic statue tucked in the corner of Dewey's. Berings Kaunda, a black Malawian and pioneer of contemporary African art, created the piece, "Sky and Earth," during the Commonwealth Games in 1978. The 800-pound red cedar and malachite sculpture is inspired by traditional African fertility dolls and exemplifies a common theme in Kaunda's work: the co-existence of peace, conflict, love and suffering.

The piece was initially intended to be displayed at the Jubilee Auditorium. However, when Kaunda went to sign his work at the auditorium, he discovered that staff had shrouded the statue with plastic. Shortly thereafter, it was moved into storage. Larry Trahan, the acting manager of the Jubilee at the time, told reporters that it would have offended church groups visiting the auditorium. "We removed it before we had complaints," he said. "Do you think it would have been suitable — have you seen it?"

The piece was then donated to University of Alberta Museums, and is part of the university's public art collection. For reasons that remain murky, someone decided that

the Graduate Students' Association should display the piece, and it was installed in the Powerplant, a space since taken over by the Students' Union. Since its arrival, "Sky and Earth" has been an object of curiosity and controversy. Most recently, some students have expressed concerns that the statue is racist. In a piece for *The Gateway* published on March 2, Munira Abdulkhadir wrote that "such a provocative sculpture can definitely trigger a Black student and can have someone think that the U of A is a racist institution." Abdulkhadir would like the statue moved into a museum.

But moving the piece is a compli-

in order to remove it. And even if the statue could be moved, displaying it in a museum isn't necessarily a feasible option: there's a lack of museum space on campus that could house the massive sculpture. Currently, most of the 9,000 pieces of art that make up the university's art collection are only available for viewing by appointment. Returning the statue to University of Alberta Museums would essentially be relegating it back to storage to be ignored.

The main problems with the piece's current location seems to be its lack of context, something that's far easier to address. The Students' Union has worked with University of Alberta Museums to create a high-quality plaque explaining the piece's provenance and significance, which was installed this week. We're also exploring the option of moving the statue into a more central position in Dewey's, to avoid having either of the figures facing into a corner and allow students to view the piece from all angles, as was originally intended by the artist.

We can only imagine how Kaunda, who died in 2010, would have responded to the criticisms of his work. Regardless, the sculpture's history is precisely what makes it worth displaying. I hope that providing more information about the piece will allow students to appreciate its meaning and be glad that such a unique and storied work of art found a home on campus.

The Students' Union has worked with University of Alberta Museums to create a high-quality plaque explaining the piece's provenance and significance, which was installed this week.

cated proposition. The statue still technically belongs to the University of Alberta, but is located in a business owned and operated by the Students' Union. Because the piece is too large to fit through any existing exit without destroying it, the SU would have to close Dewey's for renovations and dismantle a wall

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CHRISTINA VARVIS

Judging Bachelor of Arts students is often shortsighted



Ashton Mucha
OPINION WRITER

If you're an Arts student, chances are you've heard the "So what will you do with your BA degree?" question. Most of the time it sounds condescending, especially when it's followed by a not so believable "Oh, that's nice" or a "Good for you."

I'm not sure if there's some unwritten rule that every non-Arts student is aware of, or if it's just the socially-imposed hierarchy on campus, but Arts students tend to

be looked at like finger-painting experts and Shakespeare lovers who drink chai tea lattes, listen to indie rock, and wear a lot of plaid rather than be taken seriously as intelligent university students.

I'm a fifth-year English major and Philosophy minor (yes, I went full hipster with my degree) and I'm proudly graduating from the Faculty of Arts with a BA in June. And yes, I've been asked this gut-wrenching question by fellow students, friends, and even family members.

At first, I was ashamed to admit that after four years (well, now five) I will "only" be receiving a BA degree. But I was only ashamed of it because society tells me that I should be ashamed of it.

The truth is that I came out of high school planning to go into Business. And after my first year of university, that was still the plan. But somewhere along the way I realized that I wasn't good at Economics, I didn't really care about Finance, and I wasn't interested in Business at all. I realized that I was passionate about English, and it seemed stupid to ignore something that I knew I loved and was good at in order to obtain a "more useful" degree.

I don't have anything against Business students. Maybe you're passionate about Marketing, and if so, kudos to you because I couldn't do it. I just didn't want to be another cookie-cutter Business student for the sake of being

another cookie-cutter Business student in hopes that I could be successful after university.

- To answer your question, I don't know what I'm going to do with my degree. But I'm excited to find out.

The same holds true for every other degree. If you go to bed at night with mathematical equations dancing in your head and a smile on your face because you're in Mechanical Engineering, then good on you. If you come to class every day excited to look through a microscope in your Biology lab,

then that's excellent. And if you can't wait to create an abstract painting that depicts something important and meaningful to you, then I commend you.

The point is that I chose to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English because it makes me happy. Oddly enough, I enjoy writing papers and analyzing novels. I enjoy participating in meaningful discussions. And I enjoy the subjectivity of it all. You may not feel the same way, and that's okay.

I'm not judging you for your degree, so don't judge me for mine. And to answer your question, I don't know what I'm going to do with my degree. But I'm excited to find out.

Apathetic students shouldn't complain about the Students' Union



Riley Samson
OPINION STAFF

After a pathetic 22.5 per cent voter turnout in last year's Students' Union election, I didn't think voter apathy could get any worse. I was quite wrong. This year the vote represented an even lower 21.7 per cent of the undergrad population.

More than three-quarters of students at this university have one reason or another to not voice their opinions on who should be running the SU. I'd be willing to bet that the vast majority of that proportion simply doesn't care. Perhaps they don't see the point of the SU, or they think the SU is a waste of time and money. Some days I feel inclined to agree with them.

But if the SU is in fact ineffective, it's not because of a fundamentally flawed system. It's also not due to incompetent executives or a university administration that doesn't care about the student voice. It's because the SU has less than a quarter of the student body behind them.

If the SU had the support of the majority of the student body, it would be able to push for things like lower tuition, affordable on-campus housing, interdisciplinary

program options, and all the other wonderful things we hear about during election season. 30,000 voices asking for something can get a lot done. 6,000 doesn't have quite the same impact.

As it stands, those ideas are mostly empty promises that exec hopefuls use as platform points to get elected, but that never see the light of day because most of the students who would benefit from them simply don't care.

- If the SU is in fact ineffective, it's not because of a fundamentally flawed system (...) It's because the SU has less than a quarter of the student body.

Those who feel disillusioned with student governance do have some fair points. Election season consistently feels like déjà vu; all the platform points seem the same year after year and from one candidate to another. Half the candidates are only there for the sake of building their resumes. Most of the promises made seem lofty and far-fetched. Many candidates are Poli-Sci majors and a lot of students feel underrepresented as a result.

These are all true statements and are very real problems, but the onus is not entirely on the Students' Union to fix them. If you're frustrated that there are no candidates from your faculty, then you might think about throwing your name in the hat. Or if you don't vote because you think the SU simply doesn't work, then maybe you should help make it work a little better by voting. Then, at least you'll have done your part and can legitimately complain to your heart's content.

The problems with the SU do not originate from within the SU; they are caused by students not caring enough about their university to be bothered to vote. As long as that's the case, you do not have the right to complain about the way things are. If you're too lazy to so much as vote None of the Above on an online ballot that takes a solid 30 seconds to fill out, then you don't get to criticize the student governance system, because you're the root of the problem.

If you're really disgusted with the Students' Union as it is, if you want to give a massive middle finger to the whole system — and I occasionally find myself sympathizing entirely — then write a Gateway article and make your voice heard. Stop sulking and complaining to whichever of your friends will listen and do something constructive for a change.



CHRISTINA VARVIS



REFLECTING ON THE AIDS OUTBREAK OF THE 1980s

Written by Jamie Sarkonak & Design by Adaire Beatty

THE disease was called “gay-related immune deficiency” back then, or GRID for short. In the summer of 1984, the gay and lesbian community of Edmonton was still safe — AIDS was far away, in places like New York and California. When Michael Phair would meet up with others in the community after the day’s work, they would kind of joke about it. “We were thinking it would never get here,” he says. “I used to say it’s too cold.”

There had been a lot of good news that year: gas was 40 cents per litre, and the Oilers had won the Stanley Cup. On Canada Day, the good luck streak ended; Phair received the news. An Edmonton man, Ross Armstrong, was diagnosed with AIDS. He would be the first of hundreds.

Before the AIDS pandemic hit Edmonton, the gay and lesbian community was said to be relatively quiet. When Phair arrived in Edmonton in 1980, there were only a couple gay bars. There were a few advocacy groups as well, called GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Awareness committee), and the predecessor of the Pride Centre, the Gay Alliance Toward Equality, which provided social support services and access to trained peer counsellors.

“I used to tease that there was one-and-a-half persons that were out,” Phair says. “One was the guy who owned one of the bars, and I was the kind-of ‘half-person.’”

Half because Phair was working with Alberta Education, so he was a little, but not a great deal out. There was an attitude among the gay and lesbian community that everything would be okay if they stayed quiet and under the radar, Phair says. Most of the community’s advocacy efforts, through GALA, went towards including sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination under the Alberta Human Rights Act.

Staying under the radar only worked until 1981. Turns out, the city police’s Morality Control Unit had been investigating a popular bathhouse called Pisces Spa. On May 21, 40 city police, six RCMP officers and two crown attorneys raided the bath house, and arrested more than 60 men. Those

arrested were photographed and videotaped. The men were questioned about their sexual activity without lawyers, and a membership list of 2000 names was seized.

“They were arrested and charged. There were reports of a couple of suicides, but I can’t verify that,” Phair says. “There were a couple that lost their jobs as well. There was a lot of stuff going on in the community. Shortly after that was the epidemic of AIDS.”

While the Edmonton gay and lesbian community was dealing with court injustice, the community in Los Angeles were dealing with a cluster of rare infections in five men. These marked the first cases of the AIDS pandemic that would spread to Edmonton a few years later. Phair moved from Edmonton to San Francisco in 1983 to study for his Masters’, where AIDS was prevalent.

“(There were) hundreds, thousands with AIDS. People were dying all the time,” Phair says.

Every gay and lesbian advocacy group in San Francisco fundraised and supported affected individuals, Phair says. Living in the midst of AIDS gave Phair an awakening, and he returned to Edmonton a year later with a cautionary outlook. He knew it was coming.

The first man diagnosed with AIDS was named Ross Armstrong. He was in his 30s, about Phair’s age. He was one of the 64 AIDS cases reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada in 1984 — a minority case. In 2014, there have been a total of 23,535 cases across the country.

Upon hearing the news of Armstrong’s diagnosis, Phair gathered with five others around his kitchen table to devise a plan. His co-organizers all took different work and advocacy backgrounds to the table, with work coming in different provincial departments. Edmonton didn’t exactly have a specific system for dealing with AIDS patients at the time, but the people gathered around the table were ready to make one — they all knew how to navigate the provincial system and press for policy change. The AIDS Network of Edmonton was founded that night, and became very busy very fast.

“What (the AIDS Network) really meant among the gay community that while AIDS is here, we better do something about it,” Phair says.

The provincial government was hesitant about looking at AIDS, both in terms of education and treatment. The gay and lesbian community knew they were they the only ones who would, Phair says. The group organized fundraisers, events, and started an information and support phone line. As more people were moved into hospital care, the volunteers followed, helping with cleaning and feeding. The founding members all worked full-time. Phair seemed to be perpetually awake.

“For many of us who were younger at the time, it took a different role of caring for, supporting, buying food for people and helping them get to things. Most of us in our 20s to 40s were doing that,” Phair says. “With it came the strength. Others in society were saying bad things or whatever, but if gave us the strength because here we were dealing with people who were dying.”

In the first few years or so, there was a hope for a silver bullet — there had to be some sort of cure, or vaccine, or something that would help. But AIDS hit hard.

“Everybody died,” Phair says. “Everybody.”

There were many sad moments, but there were definitely times at the AIDS Network when work was fun, which is part of what made it successful. Fundraisers were engaging — like the AIDS Network’s performance of Alice in Wonderland in Victoria Park. Phair went as the Queen of Hearts, and (“Oh God,” Phair says,) Armstrong went as Alice in drag, completely surprising everyone in a torn dress and an over-the-top appearance. The performance went all afternoon, and spectators would watch with cucumber sandwiches in hand. The AIDS Network made about \$500 that day, Phair says. At the time, that was a lot.

Money from fundraising went into producing informational materials, like pamphlets and overheads for slides. The AIDS Network couldn’t rely on the province to distribute sexual health information about AIDS on its own, so Phair reached out to Alberta’s head of sexually transmitted diseases at the time, Dr. Barbara Romanowski.



"In that time, when you chose STDs as a specialty, you didn't expect people to die," Romanowski says.

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is a condition caused by a virus called human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. The virus is transmitted through bodily fluids, which could mean semen, blood, vaginal fluids, anal fluids and breast milk. It mainly affects a person's immune response, causing extreme vulnerability to rare infections, like infections of the brain.

Romanowski received her first HIV patient a few months after Armstrong's diagnosis. He was a young individual, in his 20s, who had been living and was diagnosed outside of Edmonton. There were no good lab tests to diagnose anyone at the time, which resulted in people going around without knowing they had the virus for a long time.

Romanowski had spent a year on sabbatical in London to learn more about AIDS, and returned to Edmonton in 1983 to run the provincial STI program (which was called the social hygiene program at the time.) London, like San Francisco, had also incurred many deaths due to the disease. As a witness to the effects of AIDS, Romanowski was keen on reducing transmission. Colleagues would make fun of her — she didn't care to remember the jokes.

More people in Edmonton became infected, and Romanowski's patient list grew, but telling them the news stayed hard. Very, very hard.

"As soon as you say 'you're HIV positive,' people couldn't hear anymore," Romanowski said. "That first visit was relatively short, just because they can't absorb anything."

The first visit included the news and the question of whether the diagnosed had family and friends, and Romanowski would then answer any questions. Usually, that was "Am I going to die?" In 1985, Romanowski couldn't answer with a "yes" — she couldn't lie to her patients, she says. Only in the second and third visits Romanowski would give them more detailed information.

AIDS patients had to be moved into hospitals as their conditions worsened, where many of them were treated with fear by hospital staff, who would often enter rooms in full-body coverings. Patients were at risk for depression, anxiety, and even suicide (you had to be bright enough to intervene before suicide occurred, Romanowski says.) Some of their rooms weren't cleaned very often, and some weren't fed. Volunteers with the AIDS Network would help patients out in hospitals where care wasn't exactly optimal. Discrimination under the Alberta Human Rights Act could not be claimed as sexual orientation wasn't included. If Romanowski visited a distressed patient and left them with a semi-smile, she would count it as a success.

In the 80s, there really wasn't a lot of information out there about transmission. Even the word "AIDS" was treated with fear and aversion. It took about a year and a half for the AIDS Network of Edmonton to find an office space to rent. Landlords would turn the group away.

They were "tainted."

When the AIDS Network of Edmonton finally did find an office space, it was named after Armstrong, who cut through the opening day ribbon. At about a year and a half into being diagnosed, Armstrong was feeling weaker. Not long afterwards, he returned to Ontario to spend his time with his sister and her family. There had been times where Armstrong's health would decline severely for about a week, but it was clear after the move he wasn't going to bounce back.

Phair spoke with Armstrong on the phone a few days before he passed away and just made small talk — Armstrong was having a hard time even hearing. On Canada Day of 1986, Armstrong succumbed to AIDS. In Edmonton, "It's Raining

Men" played at the community hall ceremony where the community came to celebrate Armstrong's life and tell stories of fond memories.

In the first 10 years of the AIDS epidemic, Romanowski would go to all of her patients' funerals. By the 90s, she had attended "probably between 80 and 100." As an act of self-preservation, she stopped attending the funerals. They were personally taxing.

Funeral organization could be difficult because many homes would refuse to take deceased AIDS patients. In the first half year of AIDS, Phair organized about three or four funerals. That turned into about one a month, and then three every month. For some of the funerals, the family hadn't been aware their 22-year-old child was gay and had AIDS.

**"IN THAT TIME, WHEN
YOU CHOSE STDs AS
A SPECIALTY, YOU DID
NOT EXPECT PEOPLE
TO DIE"**

— Dr. Barbara Romanowski

If we're having trouble talking about safe sex now, it was even worse in the 80s. Sex was bad, Phair says, and gay sex was even worse. The AIDS Network would deliver classroom talks (which were usually met with a bit of resistance at first, Phair says.) He would store boxes of donated condoms at his house, and would give them out at gay bars.

"We'd always have fun with that," Phair says. "We'd say, 'Oh, you need a couple of them, oh this won't be big enough for you.'"

All of the sudden, men who were "a little more hefty" became conventionally attractive — weight loss was associated with the disease. Before the onset of AIDS, thin men were more likely to be considered attractive. Monogamy became more conventional too; a gay man having sex with multiple partners started to be considered wrong, Phair says.

Life-prolonging treatment for AIDS became available in the 1990s, and infection rates started to plateau. The disease was no longer a death sentence, says Romanowski. But with that, attitudes towards safe sex have become more lenient.

"The epidemic changed so we were able to control the infection," Romanowski says. "People were living healthy lives. But almost the same time as that happened, the perception in the at-risk community was 'Oh I don't need to worry so much.'"

The first drug became available for HIV/AIDS in the late 80s: it was called zydophedine, or AZT. The antiretroviral was originally given in high doses, causing nausea and low red blood cell count. Romanowski would prescribe the medication and an alarm clock which would remind patients to take their dose every four hours, even in the middle of the night. In the 90s, new drugs called protease inhibitors became available.

There are basic practices people can take to minimize risk of STI transmission, but they're not too popular. It was like that at the University of Alberta too — a study conducted from 1995 to 1997 showed that only about ten per cent of students answered "yes" to always wearing a condom during sex. Having worked with sexually transmitted infections for 30 years, Romanowski is jaded when it comes to condom use. It's so simple, she says, they're even given out for free.

Yet Alberta still sees some of the lowest condom use in all of Canada.

Rates of HIV infection are now rising in Indigenous communities — though these people make up 3.4 per cent of the Canadian population, they accounted for 12.5 per cent of new cases in 2008. And current rates of gonorrhea and syphilis infection are highest in the 20 to 24 age range. And human papillomavirus, or HPV, remains incurable and causes cancer in one of 150 Canadian women. We're no longer in an HIV/AIDS epidemic, but STIs are still a prominent, seemingly-invisible concern.

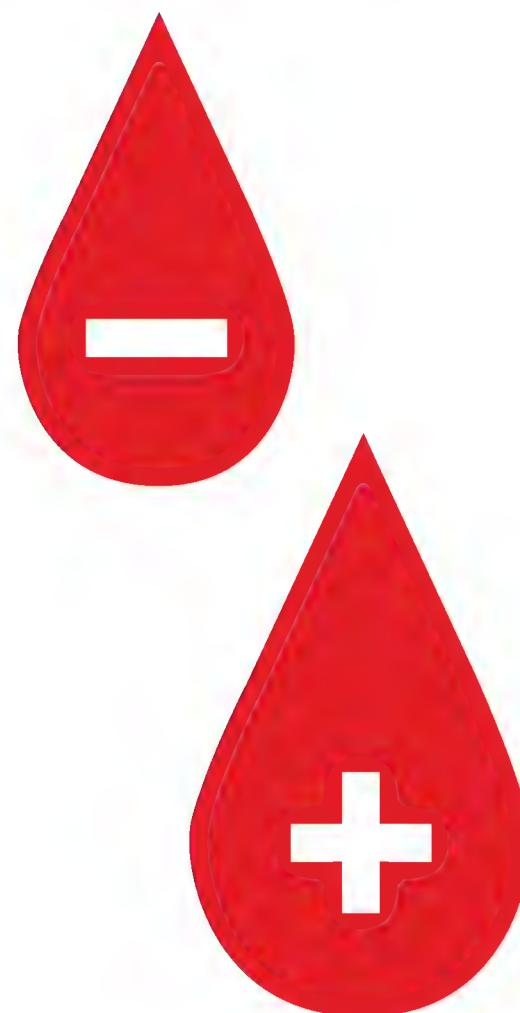
The AIDS Network is now known as HIV Edmonton, and lives on as a charity that supports individuals living with the virus. Phair has since moved on, and is the current chair of the U of A's Board of Governors.

A couple years ago, Phair was teaching a class about LGBT history, where students would be surprised to hear that same-sex marriage only became legal in Canada in 2005. Phair says there isn't a generational knowledge gap within the LGBT community. The separation of knowledge comes from the vast change within the community that's happened in such a short time. He doesn't think the AIDS epidemic will be forgotten. There just has to be people working at it.

"I think one of the lessons from history is that it's possible to reverse what's been achieved," Phair says. "It's important then to keep doing and keep working and trying to ensure that we keep moving forward."

Romanowski is more cynical. For her, the problem will be solved when condom use is at 100 per cent.

"I don't have much hope that will ever happen," Romanowski says. "We've tried for 30 years and we're still unsuccessful. Maybe the next generation will be more successful."



Arts & Culture

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Arts meetings every Wednesday at 4pm in SUB 3-04

fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Jasmine Khunkhun**



GATEWAY: Tell us about what you're wearing:
HOLOWACH: Most of my clothes come from Value Village, so this is a Value Village find. I love this jacket so much. Every one of my friends tries it on. I'm wearing two scarves because one of my friends was wearing two scarves one day, so I was like why not! Someone left this scarf at my house one day, so I kept it.

GATEWAY: What do fashion and trends mean to you?
HOLOWACH: Fashion and trends don't mean much to me, but I like being comfy in what I'm wearing and I like having clothing that is slightly more ethical than most of the clothing we're wearing. After learning more about ethical clothing when I was on a school trip in India, I came back and basically stopped shopping first hand. Since then I've maybe bought five things that were new, everything else has been second hand or from clothing swaps. That's where I got all my coolest clothes from, and that's where I get all these cool pieces that whenever I go out someone's like "that's a cool jacket where did you get that?"



SUPPLIED-ADAM WALDRON-BLAIN, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, LATITUDE 53 CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

Latitude 53 drives to support local artists

EVENT PREVIEW

Parka Patio Fundraiser

WHEN Saturday March 12, 8 p.m. - late (5-7 is a free all ages event hosted by The City of Edmonton Youth Council. 8 p.m. onwards is 18+)
WHERE Latitude 53 10242 - 106 Street
HOW MUCH \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Jessica Jack
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Edmonton is one of Alberta's leading cities for an active arts scene through its numerous galleries, notably the Art Gallery of Alberta and the FAB art gallery at the University of Alberta. However, one local gallery that stands out amongst the rest is Latitude 53. This organization is a "not-for-profit artist-run centre" that highlights the work of up and coming artists. They are "Alberta's leading contemporary art centre" that values "experimentation, collaboration, and diversity" in their featured artists' pieces.

Parka Patio, Latitude's annual fundraiser that supports "upcoming programming and gallery operations," is an outdoor event showcasing these artists' work, as well as providing food and drink from places like the Duchess Bakeshop and Credo Coffee. There will also be live music from DJs Teller and Spenny B and a special

performance by Goldtop.

One of the emerging artists donating a piece this year is Alex Linfield. He is currently finishing his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Alberta and is interested in art involving recording devices, as well as the "translation that is involved after something is recorded." However, the piece that he's donating to Parka Patio this year is something out of the ordinary for him. Linfield normally works with larger pieces. His donation, titled "Two by Four", is a unique take on, fittingly, a two by four. The texture has been altered, and upon closer inspection, the sides have been high resolution scanned. This change in his artistic approach has been an interesting opportunity for him.

"[The piece] kind of allows you to reassess things that you do experience and engage with the idea of medium as the message," says Linfield. "I thought about it and thought I should think about the viewer and the person standing in front of this object, so I thought of making something that was a commodity but not a super desirable commodity."

Linfield has a positive relationship with Latitude 53, and appreciates the opportunities they give to artists emerging onto the scene. Latitude is primarily artist run, giving opportunities and freedom to each individual contributor. They encourage artist experimentation in a variety of different mediums. Their focus on contemporary art is something that's

unique, as this type of art is not featured as heavily in other galleries.

"The curators and directors of latitude 53 are bringing in a very different kind of art than public galleries like the AGA or the other galleries around here," says Linfield. "I think as you have more artist run centres popping up ... you get a greater diversity of people thinking about art defining what art can be and what it is."

Gerry Dotto is another artist featured in this year's Parka Patio who is well established in the Edmonton arts community. He has many pieces to his name featured in numerous exhibits, including the upcoming Alberta Biennial. He has been working with Latitude 53 since the 80s and is donating a piece to the Patio this year to show his continued support.

Dotto's work titled "Debbie Does Dallas," is a smaller piece from a group of prints created with text. Dotto has incorporated thread into the wordplay of this design as well.

"The title and picture itself is three letter Ds ... it also happens to be the title of an old porno movie," Dotto says.

This year's Parka Patio will celebrate the work of many talented artists, as well as create an atmosphere fit for all those who enjoy the arts. All profit from tickets sold will go to Latitude 53 to continue supporting the gallery and its pieces. This fifth annual fundraiser is sure to be a great success and a wonderful opportunity for new and emerging talent.





SUPPLIED

Project Pilgrim: a photographer's journey towards breaking down the barriers of mental health dialogue

Jonah Angeles
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Project Pilgrim founder Connor McCracken is no stranger to adventure and outdoor exploration. But his upcoming plans for the end of the semester are not exactly what most would consider a typical vacation. This May, McCracken will be undertaking a month-long hike along the Camino de Santiago, a famous pilgrimage route in Spain. The route, spanning a total of 1000 kilometres, hosts thousands of individual travellers and pilgrims per year — many of whom are on religious and spiritual journeys.

"I cycled it a couple years ago as part of a family vacation," he explains. "It's very reflective. It used to be a religious pilgrimage but now people are using it to find themselves."

Travellers along this route often interact and speak to each other, McCracken notes. His experiences

and encounters on this trip will be the central focus of his blog and upcoming book, Project Pilgrim.

Project Pilgrim combines three of McCracken's passions: the outdoors, photography and mental health advocacy. Over the past two months, the second year science student has leveraged his influence on social media to normalize the subject of mental health, pushing it to the forefront of mainstream conversations and social media news feeds.

"Mental health has always been very important to me," McCracken says. "I had to leave school last year to address my own mental health."

Last year, McCracken's struggles with social anxiety and depression were significantly interfering with his academic performance and social life. First turning to the university's mental health services, McCracken was told the next available appointment was in 10 weeks. This led to his decision withdraw mid-

semester and return to Vancouver, his hometown, where he was able to get the help he needed. During his time away, he turned to photography as a creative outlet and medium for self-expression.

In September of 2015, McCracken returned to the U of A to finish his degree and came up with the idea of Project Pilgrim in December, heavily inspired by his past experiences with his own mental health.

Over the past two months, Project Pilgrim has gained a significant following over social media, as well as the support and sponsorship of various organizations, including Lululemon, RYU Apparel, Wearer Label and the Bell Let's Talk initiative. In a vein similar to Humans of New York and Edmonton's Characters of the City, McCracken's Project Pilgrim combines portrait photographs and interviews to provide a broad range of individual perspectives and opinions on mental health.

"Taking photos of people is one of

my favorite things," he says. "Growing up, my dad always said photos are always better when they have people in them."

Along with an Instagram page and official website, McCracken has also launched a Kickstarter campaign where supporters can donate or pre-order the book to help offset the costs of the trip.

In the span of three days, the campaign surpassed its initial goal of \$4000 (which will cover publishing costs for the book).

By trekking the Camino de Santiago alone, McCracken hopes to demonstrate how "getting help" has benefited him personally, viewing this trip as a way of facing a fear that had "held him back" in the past.

"Social anxiety is usually highly specific to a particular situation, and my particular situation was meeting people for the first time."

McCracken hopes to inspire others by emphasizing the personal growth and development that can

come from treatment, as well as simply reaching out in the first place.

To prepare for the trip, McCracken took test photographs and conducted interviews with multiple volunteers from both Vancouver and Edmonton. These "test shoots" are currently being posted on Project Pilgrim's Instagram and Facebook page, and are intended to give people a better idea of the book's format. McCracken plans to release later the Project Pilgrim book later this year through online self-publishing platform Blurb.

Since the official launch, many of the people featured in Project Pilgrim's blog posts have contacted McCracken about its

"They've told me they've had dozens of messages of support, just realizing that most normal people all have experience with this kind of thing. Everyone has mental health, and my goal is to make people realize that."

vino bitches

Deinhard Green Label WRITTEN BY Chyana Deschamps



It's the end of another week which has been bombarded with slaying English essays, working over-time at your super hip Barista job, and you even managed to take your niece out for some ice cream. Yet, your super-hero duties have finally caught up with you, and you're exhausted. No shame there, because we're right there with you. Suddenly, it's Friday night and your life begins to look joyous again — all thanks to the fact that you know a gold star in the shape of Deinhard Green Label is awaiting your company in your paper scattered apartment. This German gem has all the qualities you're looking for — from some vineyard near Bernkastel and all the right flavours to indulge in the whole bottle.

The Germans like to keep it simple, and this Riesling holds true to that philosophy. If you're a girl like me and a bottle of wine is not something one simply distributes about in a frivolous nature, then this is the

wine for you. Forget about sharing, you'll want to finish the whole thing. The subtle flavours of apple and minerals pair perfectly with a late night blog session while listening to some Chet Faker. Music and wine are like religions and shrines. So when you're done your assignments for the week, and it's time to unwind, that means it time to wine.

Allow the not-too-sweet notes of green apple, citrus, and crisp fresh air of this reverberating Riesling take you to your happy place. I could tell you how brilliantly bountiful it smells, or how elegantly matte the bottle is (which it is), but instead, I'll tell you the perfect pairing for this wine. Take the bottle, a wine glass, your iPod, and head right up to your desk because it's time for some self-care. Find comfort in the wisdom your new-found companion can provide, as it has been around since 1794 and that's a whole lot longer than you ever could've possibly been stressing for. Even if that wisdom just told you to sit the fuck down, get a little drunk, and listen to the little sloshes of wine that sound like a shore.

brew crew

Big Rock Citradelic Single-Hop IPA WRITTEN BY Mitch Sorensen

In their latest special edition brew, Calgary-based Big Rock immerses the palate in citrusy hops.

The Citradelic Single Hop IPA tastes initially exactly as you'd expect it to. With the Citra hops combining with notes of orange and other citrus, it's like drinking a pint of Keith's after downing a glass of Tropicana's finest no-pulp.

I probably made that sound significantly worse than the beer actually is. The malt takes a complete back seat, and Big Rock lets the Citra hop sing lead vocals through the whole tasting experience. The medium body and similar finish give the hops centre stage throughout, with their bitterness interplaying perfectly with the zesty citrus of the flavor profile.

Though it can sometimes taste a little more like something you'd use to degrease an engine than fresh-squeezed OJ, Big Rock did a fine job of bringing distinct, in-your-face flavor to an IPA. This is extremely difficult to do in a beer with an already distinct flavor; complementing the bitterness of the hops with citrus works well

to keep the palate interested without straying from the IPA style.

Citradelic pours a slightly cloudy orange-amber colour, and gives a frothy, sparse head. The citrus zing is complemented by a fairly bubbly mouth feel, which makes the flavours even cleaner and more crisp. Though it is a special-edition taster beer, it doesn't weigh down the palate; you can drink these back to back and not feel overpowered.

If you're looking for something fresh in the IPA sector, give this concoction a shot. It's likely not for everyone, but those who find the taste appealing will soon find Citradelic in their normal rotation of brews.



Law students make feminist waves with *Ms. Suffragette*

Alyssa Demers

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Five women from the Faculty of Law are making waves in the legal community and engaging with important feminist topics that are often forgotten about, or taken for granted. In their blog, *Ms. Suffragette*, they encourage us to remember hard working feminists that came before us, as well as meditate on current cultural discourse with a critical lens.

Ms. Suffragette is the collective pen name that Kate Andress, Leri Koornhof, Venessa Korzan, Kathleen O'Driscoll and Nicole Watt write under. These five students are enrolled in a Faculty of Law course called Law and Social Media, where they are responsible for creating and maintaining a daily blog about a topic of their choice.

“Rape and gender myth that are still held by people today... we really need to be aware of them and talk about them if we want to push for change.”

KATE ANDRESS
MS. SUFFRAGETTE CO-FOUNDER

They chose feminism: writing about the efforts of past feminists that paved the way for a continual fight for equality to this day. Kate Andress discusses that they selected *Ms. Suffragette* because they wanted to celebrate the commemoration the 100-year anniversary of the first several provinces permitting women to vote, as this is a pin-



SOME OF THE LADIES BEHIND MS. SUFFRAGETTE Kathleen O'Driscoll (left) Kate Andress (middle), Leri Koornhof (right) SUPPLIED-GILLIAN REID

nacle landmark for the occurrence of feminism in Canada.

She explained that four women and her have the freedom to write on any topic pertaining to feminist rhetoric: they've written about historical topics such as the Magna Carta that occurred 800 years ago, or more contemporary topics such as the Jian Ghomeshi trial and the internet prevalence of Roosh V — an extremist, misogynistic man that started an internet movement to legalize rape on public property.

“We hope to grow public

awareness about groups in society and to create conversation, or to at least get people to take away a bit of information they didn't know,” explains Andress.

Andress elaborates that although substantial progress has been made since the time of the Suffragette's, there are still significant, damaging sexism and gender assumptions that still exists.

“It's damaging when people say ‘we don't need it anymore.’ They see that in law, women have achieved equal status and they think that it

translates that women are treated equally — end of story — but protective legislation can only go so far.”

Ms. Suffragette seeks to diversify their selection of content by engaging in the intersectionality of feminism, and unveiling discrepancies within Canada that are not often talked about. Andress criticizes the government and their legislation that treated Aboriginal men and Aboriginal women as different classes.

“Women who lost their Indian Status through the Indian Act faced more barriers getting that status

back. And First Nations women who married a white man lost her status, whereas First Nations men who married white women, held onto their status and the women gained status as well,” Andress says.

One of the most prominent topics that *Ms. Suffragette* seeks to address is self-reflection, and garnering an appreciation for the hard work for women's rights that came before us by the women of the Suffragette movement. She discusses how it is important to not forget that Suffragettes fought for decades to get the right to vote. She points out that if you look at the dates, it was only 100 years ago when women were enfranchised women in those provinces; or that in Quebec, women did not receive the vote until 1940.

“We hope to grow public awareness about groups in society and to create conversation.”

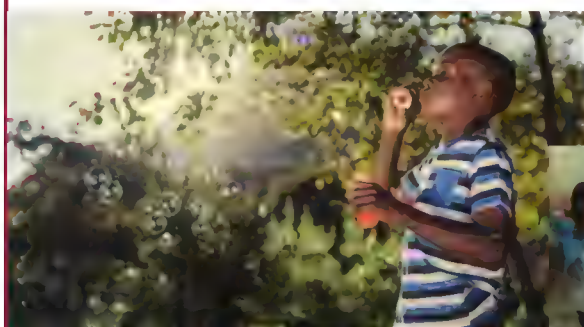
KATE ANDRESS
MS. SUFFRAGETTE CO-FOUNDER

“It is not a relic of the past as much as people think, and it is absurd that only 100 years ago, the most fundamental democratic necessities was not given to half of the population,” Andress says.

Andress reinforces that as people, we must push for positive social change and acknowledge the change that must occur in present day.

“Rape and gender myths that are still held by people today, educated people. We really need to be aware of them and talk about them if we want to push for change like Suffragette's did 100 years ago.”

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CHRISTINA VARVIS

Pink Pencil Skirt's unique approach to fashion

Kate McInnes
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

Nicole Hammond doesn't look like your typical style blogger: she wears no makeup, and her hair falls just past her chin in natural waves undamaged by a straightener or curling iron. But what stands out most is her smile, which is unusually warm for an industry that often asks models to remain expressionless.

Because of Hammond and people like her, fashion is no longer defined solely by the editors of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*. A generation of young women are taking style into their own hands, and they're doing it through blogging.

"(Blogging) is very democratic, (because) it's literally teenage girls being like, 'I like this,' rather than

fashion editors," Hammond says. "It's a really good way of finding out what is actually trendy at the consumer level."

After two years of building up courage, Hammond, a third-year Bachelor of Commerce student at the University of Alberta, created a life and style blog called Pink Pencil Skirt this past summer. Since then, she has caught the attention of Edmonton's fashion community, and she was cited last month by the *Edmonton Journal* and *Lazy Faire Magazine* as one of the best style bloggers in the city.

Despite its success, Hammond kept Pink Pencil Skirt a secret from her friends and family for most of its existence because she feared judgement: her blog, after all, focuses on style, a field even more cutthroat than business.

"I almost felt a bit ridiculous at first, putting myself out there and being like, 'I know fashion,'" Hammond says. "But the truth about blogging is you can reinvent yourself as a guru."

"Blogging is very democratic because it's literally teenage girls being like, 'I like this,' rather than fashion editors."

NICOLE HAMMOND
FASHION BLOGGER

"You don't have to be an expert to blog, but you can become an expert while blogging."

Pink Pencil Skirt is unique

among style blogs, which often feature little more than OOTDs, clothing hauls and Pinterest wish lists. From a DIY on making a homemade bralette to a philosophical rant responding to a popular comment posted on UAlberta Confession deeming girls who wear Lululemon leggings and white Converse "basic," Hammond's blog is divided evenly between fashion, lifestyle and personal empowerment.

"I try to write about things that (interest) other people, but it's very personal as well," Hammond says. "I try to make it a really unique worldview, and I try to give it atmosphere."

Because her experience as a business student has made her mindful of what her blog's "brand" is, Hammond has faced difficulty

in drawing the line between professional and personal, especially when it comes to discussing inflammatory topics.

"Especially because it's a personal blog, it's easy to go in a million different directions, (but) I have to think, 'How is this going to affect my marketability?'" she says.

"Sometimes there's issues I want to rant about, like sex robots, but I'm not going to write that on my blog because it's not the image I want to project."

Ultimately, Hammond's dream is to publish a book inspired by her life, style and career.

"That's every blogger's dream," Hammond says. "Right now, I'll just keep doing what I'm doing ... and see where it evolves, but if I were to say what the goal is, it would be to have something published."

"Sliding into DMs?" Tips on how to court your internet crush

Ashton Mucha
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Step aside Netflix and Chill, there's a new catchphrase in town: sliding into DMs. For those of you who don't know, DMs are direct messages on social media like Instagram or Twitter. And yes, it sounds dirty as fuck because chances are the bro with the weird Twitter handle and douchey profile pic is trying way too hard to be smooth and get your number. Say no to @makeuwet69 and the deuces he's chucking up in his pic. Just imagine the MADtv "Can I have your number?" guy and run.

No unsolicited dick pics

However, sliding into DMs doesn't have to follow douchey Twitter boy's tactics. If done right, it can work out in your favour, ending up as a two-sided internet romance and not as a restraining order. I'm assuming that your goal of sliding into DMs is to get your prey's number in hopes that you two will end up together on the bang-bang choo-choo train. But keep in mind that you are messaging a total stranger over the internet, so you could either end up looking like a total creep, or end up swapping faces in a Snapchat selfie. #couplegoals. So guys, and ladies (this isn't a gendered technique), if



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you're looking for advice on how to properly slide into DMs then check out these general guidelines before you decide to test out your mad wheels on some stranger on social media.

First, I know you're trying to be

smooth, but please do not say any variation of "Sup girl" or "Sup boi" to get your Twitter crush's attention. And do not follow it up with a "ur a babe." Instead, try saying "Hey," or "Hi" like a normal human. It proves that you aren't a sex

bot looking for sexy singles in your area. For that, try Tinder.

Next, don't compliment their "assets," if you know what I mean. Do compliment them for their witty tweets or cool photos, or toss them a retweet or like. Then strike up a

genuine conversation about their interests from there.

And please don't use some cheesy pick-up line that we've all heard before and rolled our eyes at: "Do you sit in a pile of sugar? Because you have a really sweet ass." Just stop that right now. If you're going to use a pick-up line, at least make it original. If the recipient is into it they will be wowed by your creativity and not immediately block you.

It's important that you prove your Twitter crush wrong by not falling into one of the two scary-types-of-people-who-DM categories: the creepy stalker who's in love, and the horny weirdo who also goes on Chatroulette to masturbate. That means no novel-length messages (now that the 140 character limit has been upped to 10 000) asking about their trip to Korea in 2013 or reciting one of Shakespeare's sonnets. That also means no unsolicited dick pics guys. Ladies, I have a feeling that guys may be a bit more open to receiving nudes from you, so I guess you're off the hook. Go forth and send thy nudes lady friends. But still ask if they want them first. You never know who is staring over their shoulder, you don't want to be the first set of boobs a four year old niece sees.

If somehow you do get your Twitter crush's number, then I guess your internet romance has reached a new level. So try not to screw it up.

Sports

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Sports meetings every Wednesday at 3pm in SUB 3-04

Hoop Pandas sweep Wolfpack, await rematch with Huskies

Zach Borutski

SPORTS EDITOR • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

The Pandas basketball team is heading to the Canada West final four after a two-game sweep over the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack this past weekend.

Alberta took care of business in convincing fashion in the first game on Thursday night, winning 77-48 on the back of a commanding second quarter performance that saw them outscore the visitors from B.C. 22-9.

Even though the green and gold won convincingly, head coach Scott Edwards attributed their victory to a lack of execution on the Wolfpack's side.

"We shot the ball OK, but I think more of that game had to do with the fact that Thompson Rivers shot the ball so poorly early on," he said. "We were able to get out and run off that quite well, and give ourselves some confidence."

The Wolfpack only shot 28.2 per cent in the first half as a team, and the Pandas were able to capitalize, building up a 20 point lead at half time, eventually cruising to the easy victory.

Megan Wickstrom led the home side with 22 points, while Jessilyn Fairbanks chipped in 15 points and nine boards as well.

If the Pandas thought the Wolfpack were going to roll over the next night, they were mistaken. The visitors hit the court on Friday as a much more motivated team, holding the Pandas to just seven points in the second quarter.



MOVING ON UP Pandas basketball will clash with the Saskatchewan Huskies in the Canada West final four this weekend.

JOSHUA STORIE

"(Thompson Rivers) was a lot more prepared in the second game, and they played with a lot more confidence," Edwards said. "It's the same with every team really, once you start hitting some shots, you start getting some confidence, and you play a little tougher."

The Wolfpack had a slim 46-45 lead heading into the fourth quarter, but the Pandas weren't about to let the game slip away, as Jessilyn Fairbanks opened the quarter with five straight points for the Pandas, giving them a lead they wouldn't surrender. The final score was 62-56

in the Pandas' favour.

Fairbanks led the Pandas with 21 points, while Maddie Rogers chipped in 18, along with six rebounds. Kassie Colonna led the Wolfpack with 20 points, while Taisya Worsfold put up 15 points and eight rebounds.

Edwards said he was very pleased

with his team's execution in the fourth quarter.

"To be a really good playoff team, you have to execute in the half court and make shots," he said. "To watch us execute down the stretch was really fun, and I'm really proud of our girls and how they battled for each other."

The Pandas now move on to the Canada West final four where they'll hit the road to face the Saskatchewan Huskies, who boast the top record in the conference at 18-2. The Pandas and Huskies met twice during the regular season on Feb. 12 and 13, with the Pandas edging out a 78-77 victory and the Huskies responding immediately with a 73-61 win.

Edwards said that defeating Saskatchewan on the road will come down to his team's ability to manage their emotions and execute a strong, team-oriented game.

"To get a win at Saskatchewan this weekend is going to take a concerted team effort," Edwards said. "There won't be any unknowns going into the game, so what will be interesting is seeing who can manage the emotions of the night early, and just settle in to playing hard."

Edwards also highlighted the Pandas rebounding well and keeping their turnover numbers down as the keys to success against the Huskies high-powered offence, which averaged the most points-per-game in Canada West this past season with 79.5.

The Pandas and Huskies will renew hostilities in Saskatoon this Friday. Tip off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Puck Bears swept by Huskies, lose out on fourth straight Can West title

Zach Borutski

SPORTS EDITOR • @ZACHSPRETTYCOOL

Winning Canada West has almost been a formality for the Golden Bears hockey team in recent years.

Having failed to win the conference title only three times since 2001 before this year, you would be forgiven if you assumed the Bears would win again in 2016. This wasn't the case, as they were swept this past weekend by the nation's top team, the Saskatchewan Huskies.

The Huskies started the series off in dominating fashion on Friday, winning the opener 4-0. The Bears were still in the game in the third period, only trailing 1-0, but the Huskies pressed home their advantage in the second half of the period. Parker Thomas doubled Saskatchewan's lead at the 13:30 mark, and under a minute later, Levi Cable converted his second goal of the playoffs on a penalty shot, putting the game out of reach.

Jordan Cooke, fresh off receiving the Joseph A. Sullivan Trophy for being the most outstanding player in the conference, stopped all 28 shots he faced for the shutout.

Bears head coach Serge Lajoie said inconsistent effort was what led to his team's loss on Friday night.

"We didn't apply ourselves to play the game we needed to against a very good Saskatchewan team," he said. "We were putting in effort, but it was only sporadic, it wasn't a complete

effort on our part."

The Bears came out with more jump on Saturday as they faced the prospect of having to win or go home empty handed. They finally solved Cooke just 3:31 into the game, as James Dobrowolski buried his first goal of the playoffs to give the green and gold a 1-0 lead. The Bears were able to hold the lead until early in the third period, but then the Huskies struck back. Jesse Ross tied the game just over three minutes into the period, and then Logan McVeigh put them up for good just 15 seconds later.

"We didn't apply ourselves to play the game we needed against a very good Saskatchewan team."

SERGE LAJOIE
BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

Kohl Bauml added his third of the playoffs later in the period, and while Jordan Rowley was able to get one back for the Bears in the dying seconds. But it was too little too late, and the Huskies won the game 3-2, and with it, their first Canada West crown since 2012.

Lajoie said his team's effort was better on Saturday night, but he credited the Huskies for their compete level as well.

"The effort was there. The willingness to battle and compete was a lot higher on Saturday," he said. "(Saskatchewan) just looked to have more jump, and more consistent pressure on us."

Even with the unfavourable results on the weekend, the Bears did still earn a spot at CIS Nationals in Halifax this year. With just over a week to prepare, Lajoie said his focus would mostly be on allowing his team to recharge both mentally and physically.

"We've had to play very intense hockey for the last two weeks just to get a bye," he said. "The biggest focus is for us to reset, regroup, and get ourselves both mentally and physically to go into nationals."

The Bears won't be going into nationals as conference champs, but Lajoie said he was confident in his team's chances heading into the tournament.

"I believe we do have the group to perform at a level on the big stage for us to still be one of the favourites in the tournament," he said. "Practice (this week) is an opportunity for us to put everything in place so that everyone is confident and comfortable with how we need to play."

"That's not so much physical preparation as it is mental preparation so we have the right mindset."

The last time the Bears won the national championship without winning Canada West was in 2000. The tournament gets underway in Halifax on March 17.



FALLING SHORT The Bears suffered a rare series loss in Can West finals.

RUILIN FU



RUILIN FU

Volley Bears sneak into nationals

Mitch Sorensen

STAFF REPORTER • @MITCHDSORENSEN

The Golden Bears volleyball team was forced to take an unorthodox path to the CIS National Championship tournament, but they managed to get it done last weekend.

Coming off a bye week into the Canada West final four tournament, the Bears were matched up with the sixth seeded Trinity Western Spartans in the conference semifinal on Friday. In regular season play, the Bears bested the Spartans 3-1 in both matches they played. This game was another story.

With starting setter Adam Schreimer coming back off an injury, the Spartans were all over the Bears on attack. On the other side of the ball, the Spartans shut down the Alberta attack with 12.0 blocks to the Bears' 3.5. Out-pointed and out-served, the Bears fell to the team from Langley in straight sets.

"I don't think we played like ourselves," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said. "Trinity played really well, and we need to be ready for that. For some reason, we weren't."

With the loss to Trinity, the Bears were relegated to the bronze-medal match against the second ranked Manitoba Bisons, who were shocked in straight sets by an underdog team from Saskatchewan.

"These were two teams who expected to be in the final, instead they're battling for third place at three o'clock in the afternoon," Danyluk said.

"We got on the court and never looked back; I'm proud of our effort today."

BRETT WALSH
BEARS VOLLEYBALL CAPTAIN

Challenging his squad to get back to playing their game, Danyluk said the Bears stepped up with their season on the line. Dominating the Bisons all over the floor, the Bears maintained a .493 team kill percentage, and scoring a full 19.5 more points than Manitoba.

Rolling to a straight-sets victory, Danyluk said the team main-

tained composure and consistency to ensure the win. For his part, fourth-year setter Brett Walsh said the team stepped up when it mattered.

"We had our backs against the wall and we knew it was a do-or-die situation," Walsh, the newly-crowned Canada West Player of the Year said. "We got on the court and never looked back; I'm proud of our effort today."

Reaching CIS Nationals for the 16th consecutive year, the Bears come into the tournament with a sixth-place seeding. This matches them up with RSEQ Conference Champions Laval in a 3:00 p.m. Eastern time match on Thursday. In the single elimination format, the Bears need three straight wins to three-peat as CIS Champions.

When asked about what he thought of the CIS tournament, Danyluk kept his comments simple.

"The first thing is that we have to stay healthy and be ready to play on that first day. I think we learned from the loss (to Trinity) and if we're not prepared for another match this year, I'll be surprised."



TAKING THE LONG WAY It wasn't easy, but Bears volleyball made their 16th straight CIS tournament.

RICHARD CATANGAY LIEW

Season ends early for Pandas volleyball

Mitch Sorensen

STAFF REPORTER • @MITCHDSORENSEN

Coming into last weekend's Canada West final four tournament, the University of Alberta Pandas volleyball team knew they would be in tough.

With a 20-4 regular season record, all four of the team's losses came against the other three teams joining them in the tournament. Losing twice to Canada West's top seeded team and tournament host UBC Okanagan, as well as 1-1 records against Trinity Western and UBC, Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said her team was ready for the challenge ahead.

"We learned a lot from playing those teams the first go around," Eisler said. "We felt we were a much improved team after the growth we experienced in January and February."

That readiness showed in the Pandas' semifinal match against the Trinity Western Spartans. After losing last year's Canada West and CIS finals to the Langley team, the Pandas were prepared for a tough match. After grinding out wins in

the first two sets, playoff déjà vu seemed to take hold, as the Pandas fell in the final three sets to lose another 3-2 heartbreaker to the Spartans.

Finishing their marathon semifinal at nearly midnight Edmonton time, the Pandas matched up against the UBC Thunderbirds the next afternoon in the bronze medal match. They were playing not only for a medal, but also the final berth in CIS nationals.

It was not to be, however, as Eisler said the exhaustion factor from the night before may have played a role in her team "not finding their groove" in Saturday's match. UBC maintained a .241 hitting percentage, more than double Alberta's .107. Combined with a strong defensive performance, the Thunderbirds rolled over the Pandas to win in straight sets.

For Eisler, consistency was an issue on the Pandas side of the net.

"We couldn't make consecutive good plays," Eisler said. "We would make a great play and then make a mistake, it was like we had our foot on the gas and the brake at the same time."

After missing out in their last chance for a CIS Championship berth, Eisler said the team will move on from the loss, but that she was disappointed for her fifth-year players that the season ended the way it did.

"I'm still processing it, it's a devastating end to our season, and certainly not what we had hoped for," Eisler said. "At the end of it all, we fell short."

Though fifth-year libero and Pandas all-time digs leader Jessie Niles will be sorely missed on the defensive side of the ball, and senior outside Kristen Peters will leave a hole in the depth chart, Eisler said the future holds significant promise for the Pandas.

"I'm thrilled that there are some really great people and great athletes to be working with next season, as well as an influx of good recruits as well," Eisler said.

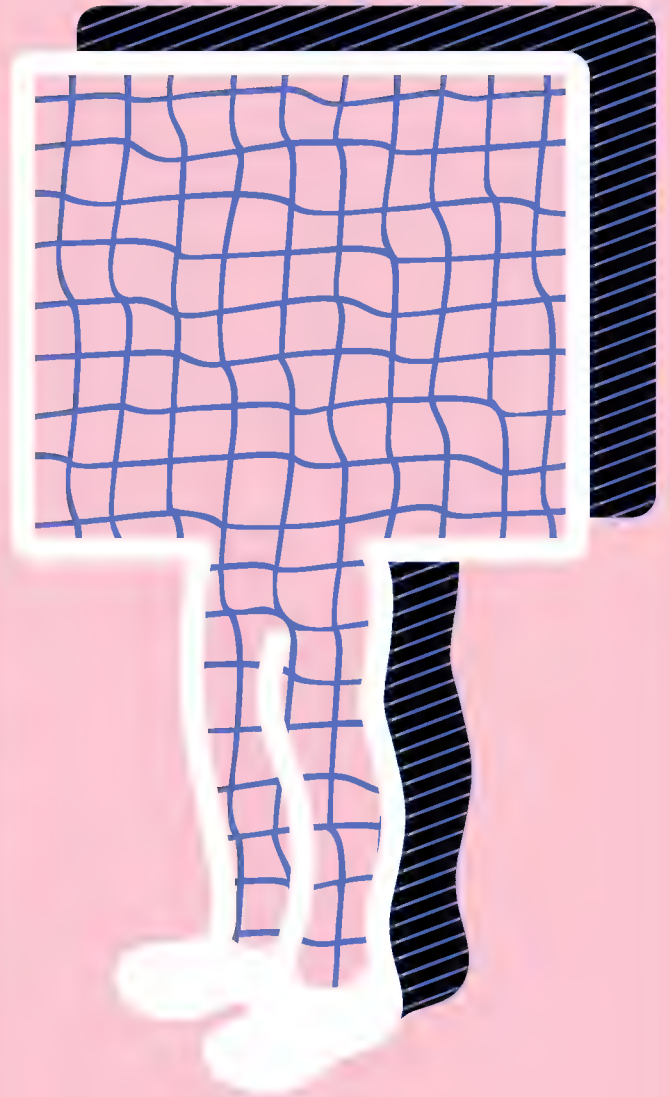
Though Eisler said she and her team were devastated by the loss and that it would take time to come to grips with the end of the season, she knows they will bounce back.

"It's not going to break anybody's spirit, but really make us stronger next year."

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**MICHAEL
HINGSTON**

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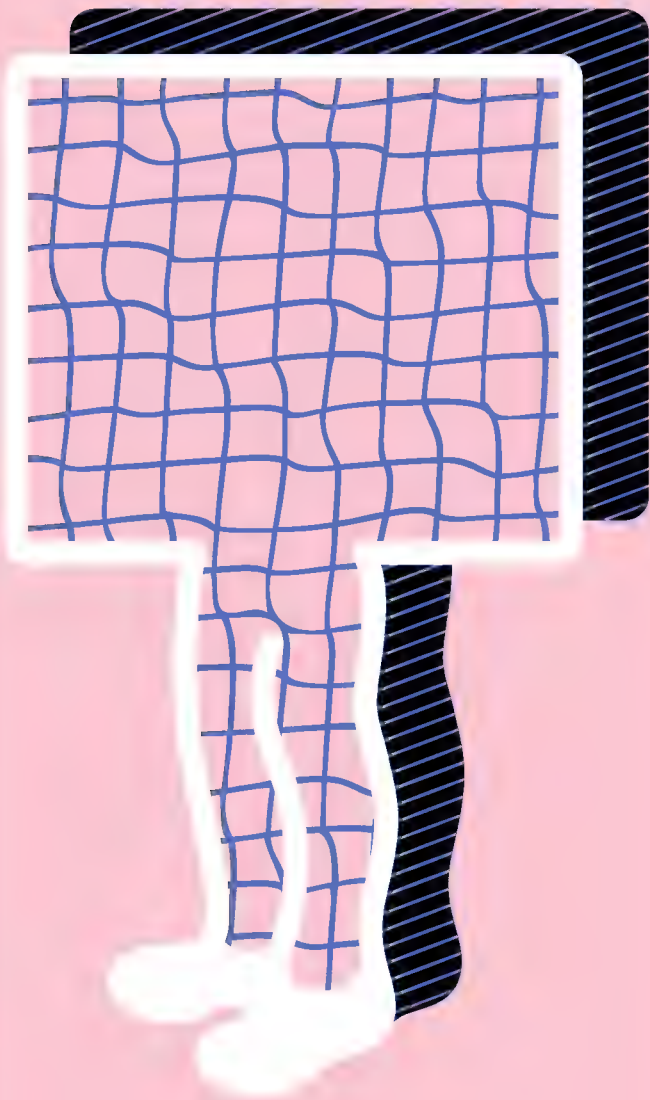
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LATITUDE 53
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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE There's a lot more to the U of A cheer team than standing on the sidelines at a football game. JOSHUA STORIE

U of A cheer flips over stereotypes

Raylene Lung
SPORTS WRITER • @HEYITSRAYLENE

The University of Alberta cheer team is debunking the myth of the stereotypical cheerleader one double twist at a time.

With 19 current members, the team is doing more than just waving shiny pom-poms around. The cheer team fully supports itself as a club sport, providing their own funding through campus recreation. Everyone from ex-gymnasts, ex-dancers, and beginners comprise the team.

Executives Nicole Chang and Kristi Tupechka, who are both ex-gymnasts, have been with the cheer team for five and six years respectively. Besides taking on roles as leaders, they're responsible for time-consuming administration duties, such as scheduling, booking events, preparing try-outs and hiring a new coach at the beginning of each year.

Alongside them is the coach they hired for this year, Joe Wood, who's role is ensuring that the team knows the basics of cheer, as well as making sure everyone is performing their parts of the routine safely.

Far from just picking up a set of pom-poms and standing on the sidelines at a Bears football game, the team participates in competitions that require a lot of training and effort.

At the beginning of a new year, coaches run through a month of instruction with team members, covering possible skills that may be needed in a routine. After that, a choreographer is brought in to teach the actual routine itself. After team members learn the routine and the competition approaches, it becomes

about fine-tuning everything.

"The last two days of practices, we're just going to clean it up, (and) pick apart the little things," Wood says. Then (the team) is going to go out there and they're going to be dominant."

The team also switched from the more difficult level six to level four mid-season, so they could be more competitive, given they have nine members in their first year of cheerleading at the U of A. Level four doesn't allow for as many dangerous stunts, therefore allowing the team to stay more competitive despite having a number of inexperienced members.

Essentially, level six calls for more acrobatics in the air, such as back flips or basket tosses, while both of those moves are illegal in level four competition. With less intricate and complex maneuvers, level four is easier for the newer members on the squad.

"[Level four] isn't as dangerous, but is still challenging for athletes," Wood says. "Someone new coming in has a better chance at learning level four stunts ... so [it's] a great spot to go and compete at."

Each cheerleader, regardless of their experience, understands the physical demands of cheer. Overall athleticism and fitness level are important, as well as knowing how to follow counts during routines. Emphasis is placed on body awareness and control, as well as being mentally prepared for each maneuver.

"You're throwing people in stunts and they're going to come down and transition to tumble at the same time," says Wood. "That's the hardest thing because if you get flustered

and something doesn't go right, you have to make sure you're still on track to do the next thing."

"You have to be able to push through and you have to be able to recover and pick it up," Chang adds. "Everyone here is capable of doing what we need to do, it's the mental game that can throw you off."

Everywhere they go, the team is also representing the U of A, and like varsity athletes, there's a sense of pride that follows them to each event.

"The greatest thing I miss coming out of high school is being part of a team that represented your school," Chang says. "I think that draws a lot of people because they get to be a part of something on campus."

Regardless of cheer's growing recognition, the image of the stereotypical cheerleader still remains, which is something Chang admits she has struggled with since she started cheering.

"You tell your friends you're a cheerleader and they say 'Oh, so you cheer at football games?'" Chang says.

While that is part of the cheer team's activities, it only comprises a small percentage of what the team actually does.

"We are not just here with pom-poms, jumping around," Wood says. "When you see it in real life, at a competition, it separates it."

"I tell my friends to come out and watch competitions, watch some of our demo performances, I show them videos..." Chang says. "I think awareness is just the biggest thing because as soon as they see what cheerleading really is, they're amazed."



JOSHUA STORIE

Bears soccer bikes for mental health awareness initiatives

Kate McInnes

SPORTS STAFF

At 2 a.m. on Saturday morning, Tim Hickson, the captain of the Golden Bears soccer team, could be found biking with his teammates in the northwest corner of the Saville Sports Centre. Though they were committed to cycling for 24 hours, this test of physical endurance was, at its root, about something mental.

"I'm sure people look at me off the bat and see me as smiley and happy," Hickson said.

"But when you start seeing the stress people go through ... you know there's so much more to it than they're just stressed over school, and you never know the degree to which they're effected by it."

From March 4-5, 35 members of the Golden Bears soccer team participated in a 24-hour bike-a-thon

at the Saville Sports Centre. The fundraiser aimed to increase mental health awareness among the U of A's varsity athletes and raise funds for the Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative.

"There's such a massive emphasis on the physical side of an athlete, and very rarely do we take care of the mental side."

TIM HICKSON
BEARS SOCCER PLAYER

The inspiration behind the fundraiser came from a very personal place. In a video posted on Facebook to promote the event, Hickson described the depression, substance abuse and self-harm he experienced four years ago when he faced

an identity crisis regarding his role outside of sport.

"We just wanted to get the word out," he said. "I by no means wanted my story to take over and make this the headline of the project — it was just a way of hitting people on a personal level."

According to the Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative, Hickson isn't alone. One in five Canadians are affected by mental health issues, and student athletes experience these concerns at the same rate as their peers. The competitive nature of varsity sport, however, can exacerbate issues, and deter individuals from seeking help and lead to crisis situations.

The fundraiser comes at a time when the U of A's volleyball and basketball teams are in playoffs. According to Hickson, this is the time of year when mental health among athletes is at its worst.

"There's such a massive emphasis

on the physical health of an athlete, and very rarely do we take care of the mental side," he said. "I want people to come out and discuss it and say it's OK to talk about it."

"I'm sure people look at me off the bat and see me as smiley and happy."

TIM HICKSON
BEARS SOCCER PLAYERS

Though Hickson himself never used a mental health service provided by the U of A, he recalled the support he received from his coaches when he finally disclosed his health battles. Today, his coaches at the U of A — including Golden Bears soccer head coach Len Vickery — voice their pride in Hickson for opening up to the campus as whole.

"I am extremely proud of Tim and

his initiative to draw attention to mental health issues," Vickery said.

"(We) appreciate the great courage it took to share his story and experiences. We hope that Tim's example encourages all students who are suffering mental anguish to seek help and support in their community."

Though Hickson hopes more varsity athletes will become involved in the fundraiser next year — and spoke of it becoming a schoolwide event in the next few years — his ultimate goal is to spread awareness and let students know "it's OK to not be OK."

"For me, I was always so quiet. I kept to myself, and I was so reserved," Hickson said.

"There are two sides to the coin: if you don't want to seek help, you aren't going to get any help, but if you put yourself out there, you will find it. Unfortunately, that's the scariest part."



BIKING FOR DOLLARS The Bears soccer team raised \$7755 for the Student Athlete Mental Health Initiative this past weekend.

RICHARD CATANGAY-LIEW

U of A wrestler graduates on top with third straight CIS gold medal

Alyssa Demers

SPORTS STAFF

On Sunday, Feb. 27, wrestler Michael Asselstine won his third consecutive CIS National Championship gold medal. If that isn't a triumph in itself, he also was titled wrestler of the year for the third year in a row — the first time this has happened in CIS history.

Although it seems to the average person that he dominated the weekend, Asselstine claimed that it wasn't his best performance.

"The first day I did not wrestle well at all. I put myself in some bad situations," Asselstine said. "I didn't feel like I wrestled my style, or even the level that I expect from myself."

But his doubts didn't last long. Asselstine's mentality shifted on the second day and he used his previous complacency to refocus and fuel his determination. During the gold medal match, he put his opponent on his back in 45 seconds, finishing his Golden Bears wrestling career on a high note and earning his third gold medal.

Asselstine's love for wrestling is easy to spot. The three-time CIS wrestling champion says his interest in the sport began in junior high. Eager to follow in his athletic brother's footsteps, he tried out and got cut from volleyball in grade seven. He decided to join the school's



GOING OUT ON TOP Michael Asselstine ended his varsity career with a third straight CIS gold medal.

CHAO ZHANG

new wrestling program, started by ex-Olympic wrestler Colbie Bell, and excelled at it. He then continued wrestling at the high school level and doing exceptionally well,

before starting at the U of A.

One of Asselstine's favorite parts of wrestling is its accessibility. Anybody at any size can participate.

"I connected with the sport

immediately," he said. "I've always been pretty small. I broke 100 pounds in grade 10. With wrestling being a weight class sport, you're competing against people your

same size."

As a fourth-year pre-service teacher, Asselstine is enthusiastic to begin coaching at a school once he graduates. He believes that wrestling can improve a student's focus and discipline. He recalled that a fellow teacher recommended wrestling to a pair of students that were not performing well in class and were disruptive, and after joining the team, those students made significant improvements in the classroom.

Asselstine said one of his main motivations for becoming a teacher is to act as a mentor to students, and give back to a community that gave him so much support growing up.

"I struggled in school and I had a lot of teachers and coaches put in more time with me than what was expected of them," he said. "With all that help and those external resources, I feel like I should give back a little bit of what they shared with me, and I really enjoy doing it."

Although his University of Alberta wrestling career has come to a close, Asselstine said that he's going to continue wrestling nationally and internationally. With senior nationals coming up on March 23, and his coaching career just beginning, he's not giving up the mat anytime soon.

"I want to share my love of wrestling with people. What's so great is that it's a sport that anyone can do."

Diversions

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Adaire Beatty

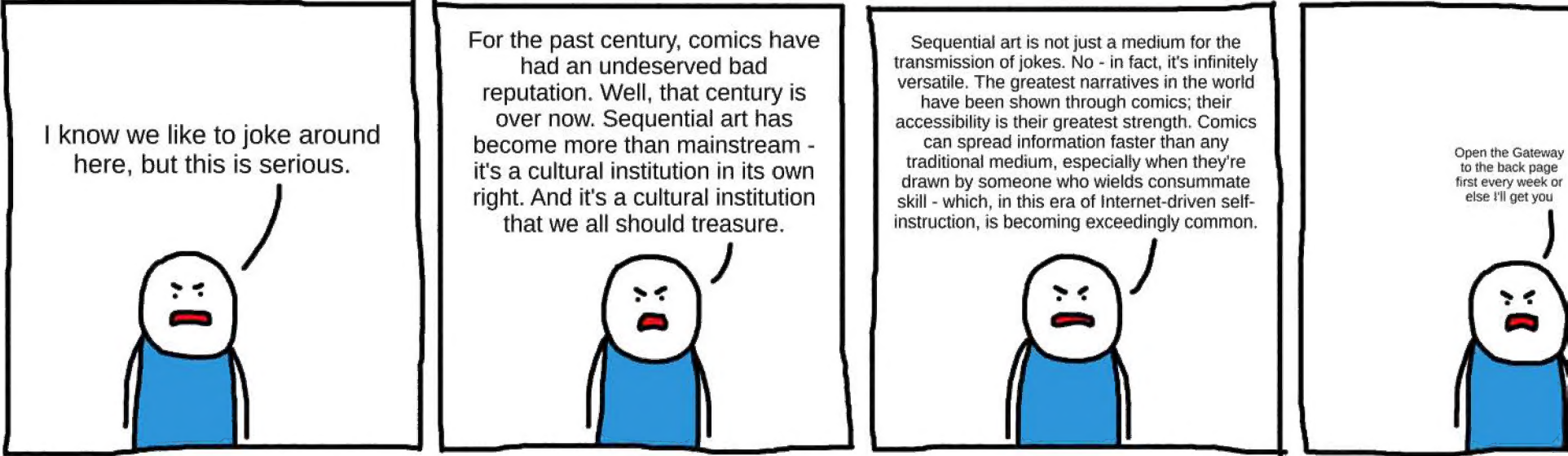
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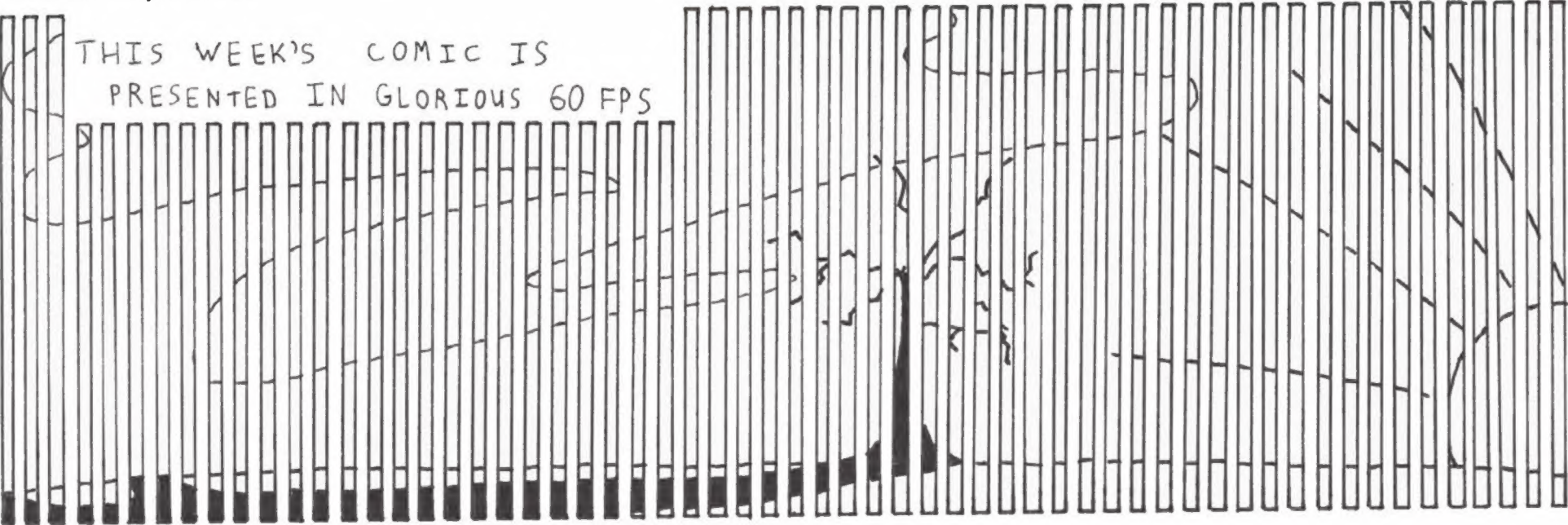
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STRAIGHT OUTTA STRATH-CO by Alex McPhee



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MY PHAIR CHAIR by Christina Varvis



Plain Old Horoscopes

by COOOM & DINGER

Aries



The majority gets upset when the minority wins. Report it.

Taurus



You wann take em out and measure em'!?

Gemini



There's not enough pizza. But there is enough old fashioned timbits.



You just might cut a bitch this week!! Watch yourself now old girl!

Leo



When your boss says they don't want a coffee but they actually do, and then they secretly judge you for not understanding their unspoken wishes.

virgo



Chances of pregnancy are HIGH HIGH HIGH! MARRIAGE RATES ARE DOWN DOWN DOWN!

Libra



Can you name all 38.4 states in the United States? BALLS!

Scorpio



Ding Dong the witch is dead! But you are the huntsmen.

Stagittarus



Major League Baseball.

Capricorn



Bananas provide a great source of potassium which is good if you're having a rough time going to the bathroom. Can I get a ride home?

Aquarius



You have an exam coming up. I HAD ONE ON TUESDAY. I haven't been to the dentist since 2007. RIP Mom's Cigarettes!

Pices



It might be your birthday today! Answer your mom's phone calls and get yourself a cake, you grown up!

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